

EXHIBIT 507

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

MDL NO: 1968

IN RE: DIGITEK PRODUCT LIABILITY
LITIGATION,

_____ /

100 N. Tampa Street
Suite 2900
Tampa, FL 33602
January 25, 2011
at 9:08 a.m.

VIDEOTAPE DEPOSITION OF DAVID BLIESNER, Ph.D.

Taken on behalf of the Defendants before
PHILIP RYAN, RPR, Court Reporter, Notary Public
in and for the State of Florida at Large,
pursuant to Defendant's Notice of Taking
Deposition in the above cause.

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 MIKE KERENSKY, ESQUIRE

Williamson & Rusnak

3 4310 Yoakum Boulevard

Houston, TX 77006-5818

4 (713)223-3330

5 TERRY J. KILPATRICK, ESQUIRE

Ernst & Mattison

6 1020 Palm Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

7 (805)541-0300

8 MEGHAN JOHNSON CARTER, ESQUIRE

Motley Rice, LLC

9 28 Bridgeside Boulevard

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

10 (843)216-9383

11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

12 MATTHEW P. MORIARTY, ESQUIRE

MICHAEL ANDERTON, ESQUIRE

13 Tucker, Ellis & West, LLP

1150 Huntington Building

14 925 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115

15 (216)592-5000

16 Attorney for Defendant Actavis Totowa,
LLC, Actavis, Inc.,

17 and Actavis Elizabeth, LLC

18 ALICIA J. DONAHUE, ESQUIRE

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP

19 333 Bush Street

Suite 600

20 San Francisco, CA 94014-2828

(415)544-1900

21 Attorney for Mylan Pharmaceuticals,
22 Inc., Mylan Inc., Mylan Bertek
Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and UDL Labs

23 ALSO PRESENT:

24 Alan Pokotilow, videographer

25

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 3

1

2

* * * * *

INDEX

3

PAGE

4

DIRECT EXAMINATION:

BY MR. MORIARTY

5

5

BY MS. DONAHUE

231

EXHIBIT INDEX

6

MAR

7

Exhibit

8

Exhibit 106	Notice of taking video deposition	226
	duces tecum.	

9

Exhibit 107	Handwritten notes, re Mylan	45
	deposition exhibits.	

10

Exhibit 108	Handwritten notes re. Plaintiffs'	45
	Exhibits 1 to 263.	

11

12

Exhibit 109	Handwritten notes taken during the	240
	deposition.	

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 4

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: My name is Alan 09:08
2 Pokotilow with Veritext. The date today is 09:08
3 January 25 of 2011. The time is 09:08
4 approximately 9:08 a.m. 09:08

5 This deposition is being held at the 09:08
6 office of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, located at 100 09:08
7 North Tampa in Tampa, Florida. 09:08

8 The caption of the case is in regards to 09:08
9 Digitek product liability litigation, MDL 09:08
10 number 168, to be heard in United States 09:08
11 District Court of the Southern District of 09:08
12 West Virginia, Charleston Division. 09:08

13 The name of the witness is Dr. David 09:08
14 Bliesner. 09:08

15 At this time the attorneys will please 09:08
16 identify themselves and the parties they 09:08
17 represent, after which then our court reporter 09:08
18 Phil Ryan of Veritext will swear the witness 09:08
19 and we can proceed. 09:08

20 MR. MORIARTY: My name is Matt 09:09
21 Moriarty, and I represent the Actavis 09:09
22 Defendants. 09:09

23 MR. ANDERTON: Michael Anderton also on 09:09
24 behalf of the Actavis defendants. 09:09

25 MS. DONAHUE: Alicia Donahue, Shook 09:09

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 5

1 Hardy & Bacon on behalf of the Mylan 09:09

2 Defendants and UDL Laboratories. 09:09

3 MR. KERENSKY: And for the Plaintiffs 09:09

4 we have Mike Kerensky, Terry Fitzpatrick, 09:09

5 and Meghan Johnson Carter. 09:09

6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Would the court 09:09

7 reporter please swear the witness. 09:09

8 The Deponent herein, 09:09

9 DAVID BLIESNER, Ph.D., 09:09

10 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, the 09:09

11 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was 09:09

12 examined and testified as follows: 09:09

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION 09:09

14 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:09

15 Q. Tell us your name. 09:09

16 A. David Bliesner. 09:09

17 Q. Okay. Have you ever given testimony in 09:09

18 court before? 09:09

19 A. When you say "testimony"? 09:09

20 Q. Gone into court, been sworn and 09:09

21 testified. 09:09

22 A. In court? 09:09

23 Q. In court. 09:09

24 A. No. 09:09

25 Q. How about in an arbitration 09:09

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 6

1 proceeding?

09:09

2 A. Yes.

09:09

3 Q. What kind of arbitration proceeding

09:10

4 was that?

09:10

5 A. It was an HR arbitration.

09:10

6 Q. Does that stand for human resources?

09:10

7 A. Yes.

09:10

8 Q. All right. So this was some sort of

09:10

9 employment dispute at one of your jobs or your

09:10

10 consulting arrangements?

09:10

11 A. It wasn't employment dispute, no.

09:10

12 Q. All right. Were you just a witness or

09:10

13 had you been sued in the case or were you suing

09:10

14 somebody else?

09:10

15 A. I was a witness.

09:10

16 Q. Have you only testified in one

09:10

17 arbitration proceeding?

09:10

18 A. Just one arbitration, yes.

09:10

19 Q. Have you ever given a deposition such as

09:10

20 we're about to do today?

09:10

21 A. Yes.

09:10

22 Q. How many times have you done that?

09:10

23 A. One time.

09:10

24 Q. What sort of case was it?

09:10

25 A. Probate.

09:10

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 7

1 Q. All right. So you have never testified 09:11

2 in a pharmaceutical products liability case in 09:11

3 deposition? 09:11

4 A. No. 09:11

5 Q. How many times have you been retained as 09:11

6 an expert witness in a pharmaceutical products 09:11

7 liability case? 09:11

8 A. One time. 09:11

9 Q. Just this time? 09:11

10 A. Yes. 09:11

11 Q. All right. Now, do you know who Pete 09:11

12 Miller is? 09:11

13 A. Yes. 09:11

14 Q. He's one of the Plaintiffs' lawyers in 09:11

15 this Digitek litigation; correct? 09:11

16 A. Yes. 09:11

17 Q. When was the last time you met Pete 09:11

18 Miller in person? 09:11

19 A. Yesterday. 09:11

20 Q. Where was that? 09:11

21 A. At the Sheraton. 09:11

22 Q. And how long did you spend with Pete 09:11

23 Miller? 09:11

24 A. Several hours. 09:11

25 Q. Mr. Kerensky was just here a second 09:12

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 8

1 ago. When did you first meet him in person? 09:12

2 A. Yesterday. 09:12

3 Q. How long did you spend with him? 09:12

4 A. A couple of hours. 09:12

5 Q. All right. When did you first meet 09:12

6 Mr. Fitzpatrick? 09:12

7 A. Yesterday. 09:12

8 Q. How long did you spend with him? 09:12

9 A. Several hours. 09:12

10 Q. And you've met Meghan before; correct? 09:12

11 A. Correct. 09:12

12 Q. Are there any other lawyers for the 09:12

13 Plaintiffs in the Digitek litigation with whom you 09:12

14 have met either in person or by telephone? 09:12

15 A. I'm not good with legal terms. So 09:12

16 Plaintiff, please? 09:12

17 Q. The people who are suing the 09:12

18 pharmaceutical companies. 09:12

19 A. Could you ask the question again, 09:12

20 please? 09:12

21 Q. Sure. Other than the people I've just 09:12

22 named, have you met with -- either in person or by 09:12

23 phone -- any other Plaintiffs' lawyers in the 09:12

24 Digitek litigation? 09:12

25 A. By phone, yes. 09:12

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 9

1 Q. Who?

09:12

2 A. I don't recall who was on the

09:12

3 teleconference.

09:13

4 Q. How many people were on the

09:13

5 teleconference?

09:13

6 A. I don't know the exact number.

09:13

7 Q. And when was that telephone conference?

09:13

8 A. I believe it was in January of last

09:13

9 year.

09:13

10 Q. Now, I'll get in -- later into more

09:13

11 detail about what you did to prepare for today,

09:13

12 but do you know who Russ Soma is?

09:13

13 A. No.

09:13

14 Q. How about Mr. Kenny?

09:13

15 A. No.

09:13

16 Q. Jim Farley?

09:13

17 A. No.

09:13

18 Q. Karen Frank?

09:13

19 A. No.

09:13

20 Q. Each one of those people were hired by

09:13

21 the Plaintiffs' lawyers and wrote reports much

09:13

22 like you wrote here with your opinions about this

09:13

23 Digitek situation.

09:14

24 Have you ever read any of those reports?

09:14

25 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

09:14

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 10

1 Q. Did any of the Plaintiffs' lawyers read 09:14
2 to you from those reports? 09:14

3 A. No. 09:14

4 Q. Recently in December of 2010 we produced 09:14
5 to the other side reports of our experts -- Lou 09:14
6 Amsel, Martha Bennett, several other people. 09:14

7 Have you seen any of those reports? 09:14

8 A. Not that I recall. 09:14

9 Q. To the best of your knowledge, have any 09:14
10 of the Plaintiffs' lawyers read to you from those 09:14
11 reports? 09:14

12 A. Not that I recall. 09:14

13 Q. Have they told you in general what those 09:15
14 reports contain and what their conclusions were? 09:15

15 A. No. 09:15

16 Q. Last June and then even last week I took 09:15
17 and Mr. Anderton took and a Mr. Dean from my 09:15
18 office took testimony from Russ Soma, Mr. Kenny, 09:15
19 Karen Frank and Jim Farley; okay? 09:15

20 Have you seen any of those deposition 09:15
21 transcripts? 09:15

22 A. Who are those individuals again? 09:15

23 Q. They are experts hired by the same 09:15
24 people who hired you. 09:15

25 A. I don't recognize those names. 09:15

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 11

1 Q. But have you read any of their 09:15

2 deposition testimony? 09:16

3 A. Not that I recall. 09:16

4 Q. Did the Plaintiffs' lawyers read to you 09:16

5 any excerpts from their transcripts? 09:16

6 A. No. 09:16

7 Q. When you met with these lawyers 09:16

8 yesterday to get ready for today, did they tell 09:16

9 you any of the kind of questions that you could 09:16

10 expect from me? 09:16

11 A. Yes. 09:16

12 Q. All right. I assume that since you have 09:16

13 both a college degree from a very reputable 09:16

14 institution and a Ph.D., that you have had to 09:16

15 study for and take examinations in your career; is 09:16

16 that correct? 09:16

17 A. Yes. 09:16

18 Q. Did you ever have an occasion in your 09:16

19 academic career when you studied real hard for a 09:16

20 test but did poorly? 09:16

21 A. Specifically I don't recall. 09:17

22 Q. Did you ever have an occasion where you 09:17

23 didn't study too hard at all but you did rather 09:17

24 well? 09:17

25 A. Specifically I don't recall. 09:17

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 12

1 Q. All right. Generally do you recall? 09:17

2 A. Vaguely. 09:17

3 Q. And is it your vague recollection that 09:17

4 those two things probably happened at some point 09:17

5 in your academic career? 09:17

6 A. Perhaps. 09:17

7 Q. All right. So if perhaps that happened, 09:17

8 you would agree with me logically that the amount 09:17

9 of work put in the process of studying did not 09:17

10 always necessarily correlate with the outcome; 09:18

11 right? 09:18

12 A. Could you say that again, please. 09:18

13 MR. MORIARTY: Can you read that back? 09:18

14 (Whereupon, the testimony was read 09:18

15 back by the court reporter, as recorded above) 09:18

16 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't agree with you 09:18

17 on that statement. 09:18

18 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:18

19 Q. All right. Are you a golf fan? 09:18

20 A. No. 09:18

21 Q. Do you still shoot and skeet or trap 09:18

22 tournaments competitively? 09:18

23 A. No. 09:18

24 Q. Did you ever do that? 09:18

25 A. No. 09:18

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 13

1 Q. Do you still coach? 09:18

2 A. I don't know if I understand what you 09:19
3 mean by "coach." 09:19

4 Q. Well, you have a website that talks 09:19
5 about your online shotgun classes. I think it 09:19
6 even says the word "coach." 09:19

7 Do you still do that? 09:19

8 A. I don't know if I understand what you 09:19
9 mean by "coach." 09:19

10 Q. Did you ever play any sports in high 09:19
11 school or -- 09:19

12 A. Yes. 09:19

13 Q. -- college? 09:19

14 A. Yes. 09:19

15 Q. Did you have coaches? 09:19

16 A. Yes. 09:19

17 Q. Elders, those with more experience who 09:19
18 taught you how to block or tackle or do freestyle 09:19
19 better? 09:19

20 A. Whatever sport. 09:19

21 Q. Okay. So you do have a website that 09:19
22 talks about you being the online coach? 09:19

23 A. No, it does not talk about me being the 09:19
24 online coach. 09:19

25 Q. Okay. I want to make sure I'm not 09:19

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 14

1 misquoting anything. Is the name of the website 09:20

2 still claycoachonline.com? 09:20

3 A. It is. 09:20

4 Q. So the word "coach" is in the title of 09:20

5 the website; correct? 09:20

6 A. It is, correct. 09:20

7 Q. All right. 09:20

8 So what is it? 09:20

9 A. It's what it says on the web page there. 09:20

10 Q. Yeah, but what is it? Is it just a 09:20

11 video system that you sell? 09:21

12 A. It's more than a video system. 09:21

13 Q. But you don't do one-on-one coaching 09:21

14 with people; right? 09:21

15 A. Again, how do you define "coaching"? 09:21

16 Q. Teaching, encouraging, helping them 09:21

17 improve, trying to tell them about their 09:21

18 technique. 09:21

19 A. Professionally, for a fee? 09:21

20 Q. I didn't ask that. Do you do that at 09:21

21 all, whether for free or for a fee? 09:21

22 A. Coaching again, you know, I have 09:21

23 children. I coach all the time. 09:21

24 Q. Okay. Do you know the difference 09:21

25 between probability and possibility? 09:21

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 15

1 A. From a legal term? 09:21

2 Q. Do you know the difference between 09:21

3 probability and possibility? 09:22

4 A. In what context? 09:22

5 Q. Any context. 09:22

6 A. No. 09:22

7 Q. So in your work as -- in the 09:22

8 pharmaceutical business and then as a 09:22

9 pharmaceutical consultant, you've never understood 09:22

10 the distinction between possibility and 09:22

11 probability? 09:22

12 A. I don't recall whether I've ever sat 09:23

13 down and thought about the difference between the 09:23

14 two. 09:23

15 Q. Okay. Do -- does adherence with GMPs 09:23

16 absolutely guarantee that a drug product will be 09:23

17 within its specifications all the time? 09:23

18 A. Could you say that again, please. 09:23

19 MR. MORIARTY: Would you read that back, 09:23

20 please? 09:23

21 (Whereupon, the testimony was read 09:23

22 back by the court reporter, as recorded above) 09:23

23 THE WITNESS: When you say GMPs, what 09:23

24 specifically are you talking about? 09:24

25 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:24

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 16

1 Q. Do you go by Dr. or Mr.? 09:24

2 A. Doctor. 09:24

3 Q. Okay. Dr. Bliesner, it has been 09:24

4 represented to me in your resume, in your website, 09:24

5 and in this lengthy report that you authored in 09:24

6 the Digitek case, that you are an expert in GMPs 09:24

7 for the pharmaceutical industry. 09:24

8 A. That is true. 09:24

9 Q. So why are you asking me what I mean by 09:24
10 GMPs? 09:24

11 A. I'm not sure if you understand the 09:24
12 definition of GMPs in some context. Some people 09:24
13 don't. 09:24

14 Q. Well, I do. 09:24

15 A. Okay. 09:24

16 Q. Okay. So can you answer my question? 09:24

17 A. Are we talking about 21 CFR 210 and 09:24
18 211? 09:24

19 Q. You got other GMPs for the 09:24
20 pharmaceutical industry? 09:24

21 A. There's currently industry practices 09:24
22 that sometimes people -- 09:24

23 Q. No, GMPs. 09:24

24 A. 21 CFR 210, 211? 09:24

25 Q. Yes, sir. 09:24

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 17

1 A. Okay. And your question again, please. 09:24

2 Q. Does adherence with GMPs guarantee to 09:24

3 100 percent certainty that a drug product will 09:25

4 always meet its specifications as set forth in the 09:25

5 United States pharmacopeia? 09:25

6 A. Following the GMPs; right? I just want 09:25

7 to make sure I understand what your question is. 09:25

8 That you're saying if you follow the GMPs, then 09:25

9 there's a 100 percent guarantee that those 09:25

10 products will be -- what was the term? 09:25

11 Q. Within their specs. 09:25

12 A. Within their specs. There's no 09:25

13 guarantee, 100 percent guarantee. 09:25

14 Q. Okay. So you would agree with me that 09:25

15 adherence with GMPs increases the chances that 09:25

16 they will be within the specs; is that right? 09:25

17 A. Could you say that again, please? 09:26

18 MR. MORIARTY: Can you read it back, 09:26

19 please. 09:26

20 (Whereupon, the testimony was read 09:26

21 back by the court reporter, as recorded above) 09:26

22 THE WITNESS: The GMPs are a minimum 09:26

23 standard that's laid out by the federal 09:26

24 government. 09:26

25 BY MORIARTY: 09:26

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 18

1 Q. That wasn't my question. My question is 09:26
2 whether in your opinion adherence to the GMPs 09:26
3 increases the chances that a drug product will 09:26
4 meet its USP specs. 09:26

5 A. Possibly. 09:26

6 Q. Now you used the word "possibly." 09:26

7 A. Uh-huh. 09:26

8 Q. You told me earlier you don't know the 09:26
9 difference between possibility and probability. 09:26
10 So tell me what you mean by possibility or 09:26
11 possibly in that answer. 09:26

12 A. Previously I actually said I've never 09:27
13 sat down and thought about the difference between 09:27
14 possibility and possibility. In this case you're 09:27
15 asking me what I mean by possibly. 09:27

16 Q. Yeah, what do you mean by possibly in 09:27
17 that answer? 09:27

18 A. Again, the GMPs are a minimum set of 09:27
19 standards. They're designed to provide operating 09:27
20 space if you will, to produce drugs that are safe 09:27
21 and effective. And just because you follow them 09:27
22 doesn't guarantee that everything you make falls 09:27
23 into those categories. 09:27

24 Q. Okay. But if you adhere to them, does 09:27
25 it increase the chances that you will meet the 09:27

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 19

1 ANDA or NDA or USP specs for that drug? 09:27

2 A. I don't think that you can say just 09:28

3 because you follow the law it makes your product 09:28

4 going to be better. 09:28

5 Q. Okay. Have you ever heard of the 09:28

6 scientific method? 09:28

7 A. Yes. 09:28

8 Q. What is it? 09:28

9 A. Scientific method is a systematic means 09:28

10 of developing a hypothesis, collecting data. 09:28

11 After doing experiments, analyzing the data, 09:28

12 drawing conclusions to try to support or detract 09:28

13 from your hypothesis. 09:28

14 Q. Is the scientific method best achieved 09:28

15 when you actually look at the underlying data as 09:28

16 opposed to somebody's interpretation of the data? 09:29

17 A. The scientific method is an approach to 09:29

18 collecting data. 09:29

19 Q. Okay. But in order to reach 09:29

20 scientifically valid conclusions, should you look 09:29

21 at the actual data as opposed to somebody's 09:29

22 interpretation of the data? 09:29

23 A. I don't know if I understand exactly 09:29

24 your question. 09:29

25 Q. Well, in your -- in your reading to 09:29

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 20

1 prepare opinions in this case, you read this 09:29

2 article by Jerry Bauman and Robert Didomenico and 09:29

3 William Galanter about Digoxin; correct? 09:30

4 A. May I see it? 09:30

5 Q. Sure. That Post-It may even say what 09:30

6 the reference was in your report. 09:30

7 A. May I take a moment and confirm that 09:30

8 that is the article that I read? 09:30

9 Q. If you don't trust me, go ahead. 09:30

10 A. Okay. I need to step over here and grab 09:30

11 a -- 09:30

12 Q. Go ahead. Be careful with your 09:30

13 microphone cord. 09:30

14 MR. KERENSKY: Yeah, take it off. 09:30

15 THE WITNESS: I did review that 09:32

16 document. 09:32

17 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:32

18 Q. The document is an article from the 09:32

19 medical literature, is it not? 09:32

20 A. Yes. 09:32

21 Q. Do you commonly read medical literature? 09:32

22 A. How do you define commonly? 09:32

23 Q. Well, how many articles have you read 09:32

24 about Digoxin in the past two years? 09:32

25 A. I don't recall. 09:32

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 21

1 Q. Do you subscribe to any medical 09:32

2 journals? 09:32

3 A. When you say subscribe, permanent 09:32

4 subscription? 09:33

5 Q. Well, I don't expect that any 09:33

6 subscription is permanent, but people subscribe to 09:33

7 magazines for several years, maybe a year, maybe 09:33

8 two, maybe for their entire career. 09:33

9 Do you subscribe to any medical journals? 09:33

10 A. I buy access to online medical journals, 09:33

11 sites, and articles. 09:33

12 Q. And what sites are those? 09:33

13 A. I'd have to go back and look it up. 09:33

14 Q. But the bottom line is that this article 09:33

15 doesn't just contain data. It contains analysis 09:33

16 of data and editorial information about the data; 09:33

17 correct? 09:33

18 A. What do you mean by editorial? 09:33

19 Q. Well, did you -- when did you last read 09:33

20 that article? 09:34

21 A. Bless you. I don't recall. I guess 09:34

22 probably early on when Miller firm contacted me 09:34

23 somewhere in January. 09:34

24 Q. Do you read the newspaper? 09:34

25 A. Occasionally. 09:34

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 22

1 Q. Does it have an editorial section? 09:34

2 A. Yes. 09:34

3 Q. Do you know the editorial section from 09:34

4 the rest of the newspaper? 09:34

5 A. Yes. 09:34

6 Q. So you have some idea what editorial 09:34

7 means, don't you? 09:34

8 A. Yes. 09:34

9 Q. I'm handing you what has been marked as 09:34

10 Exhibit 78A. 09:35

11 Have you ever seen that before? 09:35

12 A. Do you mind if I check my notes? 09:35

13 Q. Oh, by all means. Let me ask you this 09:35

14 first: Do you have -- in this report that you 09:35

15 drafted, do you repeatedly refer to 21 United 09:35

16 States Code, Section 351, the section that defines 09:35

17 adulteration? 09:35

18 A. Repeatedly. 09:36

19 Q. Yeah. 09:36

20 A. Can I see the report? 09:36

21 Q. Do you ever refer to it? I'm not going 09:36

22 to quibble about the quantification. Do you ever 09:36

23 refer to this report? 09:36

24 A. What's the number of that document? 09:36

25 Q. 21 United States Code, Section 351. 09:36

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 23

1 A. May I see the report, please? 09:36

2 Q. You have your own copy? 09:36

3 A. I do. 09:36

4 Q. See if you ever refer to the section 09:36

5 that defines what adulterated drug product is -- 09:36

6 A. Say again the code that you are 09:36

7 specifically citing. 09:36

8 Q. 351 -- 09:36

9 A. 21 CFR, 351? 09:36

10 Q. Yeah. While you're looking, tell me how 09:36

11 long again you took to prepare for today's 09:36

12 deposition -- 09:36

13 MR. KERENSKY: Oh, my. Let's not get 09:36

14 testy. It's his first deposition. He's 09:36

15 taking his time. Let's not get testy. 09:36

16 MR. MORIARTY: Okay. I'll withdraw that 09:36

17 question. See if you ever refer to this code 09:36

18 provision in your report. 09:36

19 THE WITNESS: On page 9, difficulty in 09:37

20 manufacture of Digoxin tablets have been known 09:37

21 for some time and the concern to FDA -- 09:37

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Sir, slow down. 09:37

23 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry. 09:37

24 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:37

25 Q. You don't have to read all that. Just 09:37

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 24

1 tell me do you refer to it in the report, yes or 09:37

2 no? 09:37

3 A. 21 CFR, Part 310.500? 09:37

4 Q. 351 United States Code. Not the code of 09:37

5 Federal regulations, the United States code, 21 09:37

6 USC 351. It defines adulteration. Do you refer 09:37

7 to that in your report? What page are you on? 09:37

8 A. Fifteen. 09:39

9 Q. Let's -- let me withdraw the question 09:39
10 and ask you another question. 09:39

11 A. Okay. 09:39

12 Q. Do you use the word "adulterated" in 09:39
13 your report? Without looking, do you remember off 09:39
14 the top of your head whether you used the word 09:39
15 "adulterated" in your report? 09:39

16 A. Okay. 09:40

17 Q. Do you know what it means? 09:40

18 A. Yes. 09:40

19 Q. Okay. Let's look back at 78A, which is 09:40
20 the statutory definition of adulteration; okay? 09:40
21 Have you ever seen this before? 09:40

22 A. This document, 78A? 09:40

23 Q. Have you ever seen 21 USC Section 351, 09:40
24 the definition of adulteration? 09:40

25 A. I have reviewed the Federal Food, Drug 09:41

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 25

1 and Cosmetic Act.

09:41

2 Q. Okay.

09:41

3 A. Online.

09:41

4 Q. So --

09:41

5 A. But I do not commit the numbers to

09:41

6 memory.

09:41

7 Q. Okay. But you have seen this statute

09:41

8 before, whether you saw it on a piece of paper or

09:41

9 online; correct?

09:41

10 A. I'm not sure whether the document you

09:41

11 have in front of me is what I reviewed online.

09:41

12 Q. What does that mean? Do you think you

09:41

13 looked at a different version of the United States

09:41

14 code or a different provision of the code?

09:42

15 A. Possibly. Whatever version this was

09:42

16 that's on the website for the Government printing

09:42

17 office.

09:42

18 Q. Okay. Well, do you have a copy of this

09:42

19 in your own material that you printed and relied

09:42

20 on for purposes of your opinions in this case?

09:42

21 A. 78A?

09:42

22 Q. Mr. Bliesner, 21 United States Code,

09:42

23 section 351, whether it's marked as an exhibit or

09:42

24 not.

09:42

25 A. Let me check.

09:42

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 26

1 MR. MORIARTY: Go off the record, 09:42

2 please. 09:42

3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is now 09:42

4 9:43 a.m. and we're going off the record 09:42

5 briefly. 09:42

6 (Short break) 09:57

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 9:58 a.m. 09:57

8 We're back on the record. 09:57

9 BY MR. MORIARTY: 09:57

10 Q. In the time that you did spend looking 09:57

11 in materials, you didn't find either 21 USC 09:58

12 section 351 or 21, Code of Federal Regulations, 09:58

13 Section 351, did you? 09:58

14 A. In my stuff? 09:58

15 Q. Correct. 09:58

16 A. No, I did not. 09:58

17 Q. But because the word adulteration is in 09:58

18 your written report, presumably you know what that 09:58

19 means; correct? 09:58

20 A. Yes. 09:58

21 Q. So what I've placed before you is 09:58

22 Exhibit 78A. It is the United States Code 09:58

23 definition of adulteration. 09:58

24 A. Okay. 09:58

25 Q. And I'm going to refer to Section A2(b) 09:58

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 28

1 when GMPs are not complied with? 10:00

2 A. Yes. 10:00

3 Q. All right. Now, does that section A2(b) 10:00

4 say anything about drugs actually being outside 10:00

5 their specifications? 10:00

6 A. The word specification is not here. 10:00

7 Q. Does it say anything about drugs being 10:00

8 dangerous to consumers? 10:00

9 A. It applies safety. 10:00

10 Q. Where does the word -- 10:01

11 A. "As to safety and has the identity and 10:01

12 strength." 10:01

13 Q. I'm asking whether it says anything 10:01

14 about danger to consumers. 10:01

15 A. It does not say anything in that 10:01

16 sentence. 10:01

17 Q. Does it use the word -- does A2(b) use 10:01

18 the word defective? 10:01

19 A. The word defective is not here. 10:01

20 Q. Does A2(b) say anything about whether 10:01

21 these adulterated products are possibly or likely 10:01

22 defective or out of specification? Does that 10:01

23 phrase or wording appear anywhere in the statute? 10:02

24 A. Could you say that again, please. 10:02

25 MR. MORIARTY: Can you read that back? 10:02

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 29

1 (Whereupon, the testimony was read 10:02

2 back by the court reporter, as recorded above) 10:02

3 THE WITNESS: Not right here in this 10:02

4 sentence, no. 10:02

5 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:02

6 Q. To the best of your knowledge, does that 10:02

7 phrase or wording appear in the Code of Federal 10:02

8 Regulations that mirrors this statutory 10:02

9 definition? 10:02

10 A. I couldn't say because this regulation 10:02

11 is not one that we refer to in the industry. We 10:02

12 stay with the GMPs. This is the higher-level 10:02

13 document and the lawyers are concerned with this. 10:02

14 We are not, at the operational level. 10:03

15 Q. And when you say the GMPs, are you 10:03

16 talking about Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10:03

17 21, Section 210? 10:03

18 A. 210 and 211. 10:03

19 Q. Okay. So I'm handing you what's Exhibit 10:03

20 75. 10:03

21 A. Yes. 10:04

22 Q. You've seen that before; correct? 10:04

23 A. I have. 10:04

24 Q. All right. So -- 10:04

25 A. Not this particular exhibit, but I have 10:04

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 30

1 seen 21 CFR 210 and 211. 10:04

2 Q. So when we look at 210.1(b), it says, 10:04

3 "The failure to comply with any regulations 10:04

4 set forth in this part and in parts 211 through 10:04

5 226 of this chapter, in the manufacture, 10:04

6 processing, packing and folding of a drug, shall 10:04

7 render such drug to be adulterated under section 10:04

8 501 A(2)(b) of the Act, and such drug as well as 10:04

9 the person who is responsible for the failure to 10:05

10 comply shall be subject to regulatory action." 10:05

11 Did I read that correctly? 10:05

12 A. Yes, sir. 10:05

13 Q. Now, is it -- is it your understanding 10:05

14 that this lawsuit is not a regulatory action? 10:05

15 A. Regulatory action on the part of the 10:05

16 Government, is that -- is that what you're talking 10:05

17 about? 10:05

18 Q. No, I'm asking is this lawsuit -- is it 10:05

19 your understanding that this lawsuit is or is not 10:05

20 a regulatory action? 10:05

21 A. It is not a regulatory action by the 10:05

22 Federal Government as I understand it. 10:05

23 Q. Okay. And that's what you understand 10:05

24 Exhibit 75, section 210.1(b) to mean, is a 10:05

25 regulatory action by the Federal Government; 10:06

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 31

1 correct? 10:06

2 A. That's how I interpret it, yes. 10:06

3 Q. Now, does anything in 210.1(b) refer to 10:06

4 out of specification, dangerous, or defective -- 10:06

5 by the way, please don't write on the exhibits. 10:06

6 A. Sorry. 10:06

7 Q. You really don't need your pen. 10:06

8 MR. KERENSKY: No, he can use his pen to 10:06

9 help him find it, but he will not write on it. 10:06

10 MR. MORIARTY: Put the cap on. 10:06

11 THE WITNESS: I won't write on your 10:06

12 documents. Sorry. 10:06

13 MR. MORIARTY: They're not mine anymore. 10:06

14 Once I give them to you, they're not mine. 10:06

15 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. 10:06

16 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:06

17 Q. The question is does 210.1(b) say 10:06

18 anything about out of specification, dangerous, or 10:06

19 defective? 10:06

20 A. It does not say out of specification, 10:07

21 dangerous, or defective in here. 10:07

22 Q. Does Section A say those words? 10:07

23 A. It's dangerous specifications and -- 10:07

24 Q. Dangerous, out of specification, or 10:07

25 defective. 10:07

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 32

1 A. No. 10:07

2 Q. All right. May have that Exhibit 75? 10:07

3 A. Sure. Can I have yours? 10:07

4 MR. KERENSKY: Sure. 10:07

5 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:07

6 Q. Did you -- you wrote on that one, too. 10:07

7 Terry, can I have your 78(a)? 10:07

8 A. Sorry. 10:07

9 Q. All right. So at some point last 10:07

10 winter, last spring, the Plaintiffs' lawyers sent 10:08

11 you material to review; correct? 10:08

12 A. Yes. 10:08

13 Q. Did you review it carefully? 10:08

14 A. Yes. 10:08

15 Q. Did you talk to them before you wrote 10:08

16 this report? 10:08

17 A. In relation to the documents I was 10:08

18 getting, those types of things, yes. 10:08

19 Q. Yeah. And by the way, when we talk 10:08

20 about your report, we're talking about Exhibit 92, 10:08

21 are we not? 10:08

22 A. I'm not sure because the page numbers 10:09

23 don't match up in content. 10:09

24 Q. Did you write two versions of the 10:09

25 report? 10:09

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 33

1 A. No. 10:09

2 Q. Are you sure? 10:09

3 A. Yeah. 10:09

4 Q. Well, does Exhibit 94 match the one you 10:09

5 have with you? 10:09

6 A. No, the page numbers are off, which may 10:09

7 be a matter of printing possibly. 10:09

8 Q. Okay. Do 92 and 94 appear to be your 10:09

9 report, even though the page numbers may be off in 10:09

10 some way? 10:10

11 A. They appear to be my report. 10:10

12 Q. Okay. So in the process, you reviewed 10:10

13 material, you spoke with the lawyers who retained 10:10

14 you and then ultimately you drafted a report; 10:10

15 correct? 10:10

16 A. Yes. 10:10

17 Q. And were you aware that in this process 10:10

18 of drafting the report, what you were doing was 10:10

19 putting lawyers like me who represent the 10:10

20 pharmaceutical manufacturer on notice of what your 10:10

21 opinions were in this case? 10:10

22 A. Can you say that again, please? 10:10

23 Q. As you went through this process, did 10:10

24 you realize that the purpose of the report was not 10:10

25 only to organize your thoughts but it was to put 10:10

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 34

1 people like me on notice of what your opinions 10:10

2 were? 10:10

3 A. On notice I'm assuming is reporting the 10:10

4 information that I saw and the conclusions I came 10:10

5 to, yes. 10:10

6 Q. Yeah, put me on notice so that when I 10:11

7 came to question you, I would have some idea as a 10:11

8 starting point what your thoughts were; right? 10:11

9 A. I'm actually having difficulty here. On 10:11

10 notice means different things to me than it may 10:11

11 mean to you. 10:11

12 Q. Well, in some way you were communicating 10:11

13 to readers -- including people like me -- what 10:11

14 your opinions were; right? 10:11

15 A. Yes. 10:11

16 Q. And you tried to do the best you could 10:11

17 to make your report thorough so that you would 10:11

18 remember in an organized fashion what your 10:11

19 opinions were; correct? 10:11

20 A. Correct. 10:11

21 Q. And these lawyers like Fred Thompson, 10:11

22 and Meghan and Mike would know what your opinions 10:11

23 were; right? 10:11

24 A. Correct. 10:11

25 Q. And the court presumably, if it read 10:11

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 35

1 your report, would know what your opinions are; is 10:11

2 that right? 10:11

3 A. Correct, yes. 10:11

4 Q. Now, let's go to page 6. And what are 10:11

5 you -- 10:11

6 A. Which version would you like me to use? 10:11

7 Q. Well, pick 92 or 94. Let's see if 10:12

8 they're the same. 10:12

9 A. Okay. I'll look at 92. 10:12

10 Q. Sure. Page 6. 10:12

11 A. Page 6? 10:12

12 Q. Lower right hand corner. Look at the 10:12

13 top. Is paragraph four the first thing on the 10:12

14 page? 10:12

15 A. Review of Amide/Actavis Status of 10:12

16 Compliance with cGMPs: My approach? 10:12

17 Q. Yes. 10:12

18 A. Yes. 10:12

19 Q. All right. By the way, is that the same 10:12

20 in 94? 10:12

21 A. Let's take a look. It is. 10:12

22 Q. And the same as the version you brought 10:12

23 with you? 10:12

24 A. No. 10:12

25 Q. Can I see the one you brought with you? 10:12

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 36

1 A. Yeah. It appears to be a formatting 10:12
2 page thing. 10:13

3 Q. Okay. So it says here: "In order to 10:13
4 accurately evaluate the status of Amide/Actavis's 10:13
5 status of compliance with the CGMPs, I took the 10:13
6 following approach." 10:13

7 Did I read that correctly? 10:13

8 A. You did. 10:13

9 Q. Now did the lawyers who retained you in 10:13
10 this litigation tell you that your charge or your 10:13
11 job in this case was to evaluate the status of my 10:13
12 client's compliance with the GMPs? 10:13

13 A. Yes. 10:14

14 Q. And they did not tell you that your 10:14
15 charge or your task in this case was to help them 10:14
16 determine if out of specification Digitek actually 10:14
17 reached the hands of consumers; correct? 10:14

18 A. My guidance from them was fairly 10:14
19 general, included evaluate, in your opinion, the 10:14
20 status of compliance with GMPs and how that may 10:14
21 have affected a product that was potentially 10:14
22 dangerous getting to market, Digitek being the 10:14
23 one. 10:14

24 Q. Potentially dangerous? 10:14

25 A. Uh-huh. 10:14

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 37

1 Q. Right? 10:15

2 A. Uh-huh. 10:15

3 Q. You have to answer out loud. 10:15

4 A. Yes, I'm sorry, yes. 10:15

5 Q. Phil doesn't understand uh-huh, huh-uh, 10:15

6 and shakes and nods; okay? 10:15

7 A. Yes, sir. 10:15

8 Q. So in bullet point number one, you 10:15

9 assumed that Amide and Actavis was a new 10:15

10 consulting client needing assistance with 10:15

11 determining their level of compliance with the 10:15

12 GMPs. Is that what it says there? 10:15

13 A. It does. 10:15

14 Q. And you performed a paper audit of the 10:15

15 facility to determine past and current status of 10:15

16 compliance; right? 10:15

17 A. That is correct. 10:15

18 Q. And then you list what your audit 10:15

19 included; is that right? 10:15

20 A. That's correct. 10:15

21 Q. Now, how long have you been in the 10:15

22 consulting business in the pharmaceutical 10:15

23 industry? 10:15

24 A. About 12, almost 13 years. 10:15

25 Q. In those 12 to 13 years, how many times 10:15

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 38

1 have you actually been engaged by a pharmaceutical 10:15

2 company to do a project? 10:16

3 A. A project? Any type of project? 10:16

4 Q. Any type of project. 10:16

5 A. How many times? 10:16

6 Q. Yeah. 10:16

7 A. It's numerous. I'd have to really sit 10:16

8 down and think about it. 10:16

9 Q. How many times have you been asked by a 10:16

10 consulting client in those 12 to 13 years to 10:16

11 assess their status of compliance with GMPs? 10:16

12 A. At least five. 10:16

13 Q. In general, in the five times that you 10:16

14 were retained by a pharmaceutical client to assess 10:16

15 their GMP status, how many times in those five did 10:16

16 you look at batch records? 10:17

17 A. It's tough to say. Numerous. 10:17

18 Q. Okay. And when you did, did you look at 10:17

19 a lot of batch records? 10:17

20 A. Depends on how you're going to define "a 10:17

21 lot." 10:17

22 Q. Did you look at more than one batch 10:17

23 record? 10:17

24 A. Yes. 10:17

25 Q. Did you look at more than two? 10:17

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 39

1 A. Yes. 10:17

2 Q. Did you look at annual reports or annual 10:17

3 data reviews in these five times when you were 10:17

4 asked by pharmaceutical companies to assess their 10:17

5 compliance? 10:17

6 A. Yes. 10:17

7 Q. Did you look at FDA 484 testing if it 10:17

8 was available? 10:18

9 A. No. 10:18

10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We have five minutes 10:18

11 left on the tape. 10:18

12 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:18

13 Q. Do you know what US or FDA 484 testing 10:18

14 is? 10:18

15 A. Generally. 10:18

16 Q. Okay. If the pharmaceutical clients 10:18

17 that you hired had hired other companies to help 10:18

18 them remediate 483s and warning letters, did you 10:18

19 look at those remediation documents? 10:18

20 A. Yes. 10:18

21 Q. Did you look at any sort of independent 10:18

22 testing of the product if it was available to you? 10:18

23 A. Yes. 10:18

24 Q. And just to wrap up this segment before 10:18

25 the tape expires, I assume that you, when you 10:18

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 40

1 looked at things like batch records and annual 10:18
2 reports and annual data reviews, you would have 10:18
3 been looking at finished product test results for 10:18
4 various products; is that true? 10:19

5 A. Yes, and active pharmaceutical 10:19
6 ingredients as well. 10:19

7 MR. MORIARTY: Let's take our tape 10:19
8 break. 10:19

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 10:19
10 a.m. We're going off the record 10:19
11 briefly. 10:19

12 (Short break) 10:22

13 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is now 10:22
14 10:23 a.m. We are back on record. This is 10:22
15 the beginning of tape two. 10:22

16 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:22

17 Q. So getting back to how you did this 10:22
18 paper audit, another thing that I forgot to ask 10:22
19 you about is when you have checked GMP compliance 10:22
20 for some of your pharmaceutical clients, do you 10:23
21 look at process validation studies? 10:23

22 A. I have, yes. 10:23

23 Q. All right. So in this litigation, how 10:23
24 many process validation studies for Digitek did 10:23
25 you look at? 10:23

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 41

1 A. None were made available to me that I 10:23

2 recall. 10:23

3 Q. Did the Plaintiffs' lawyers make 10:23

4 available to you an online repository of 10:23

5 documents? 10:23

6 A. Yes. 10:23

7 Q. Did you look through there to see what 10:23

8 was in there? 10:23

9 A. Yes. 10:23

10 Q. And -- 10:23

11 A. In detail. 10:23

12 Q. And process validation studies were not 10:23

13 there? 10:23

14 A. At the time I reviewed it, not to my 10:23

15 knowledge. 10:23

16 Q. All right. Now this is Exhibit 1. It's 10:23

17 the Amide process validation report for Digitek, 10:23

18 .125, at the batch size of 1,600,000 tablets. 10:24

19 Have you ever seen that before? 10:24

20 A. May I check my documents? It may have 10:24

21 been associated with an investigation. 10:24

22 Q. Do you have a list so that we don't have 10:24

23 to watch you thumb through the boxes? I mean you 10:24

24 told me a minute ago you don't recall seeing 10:24

25 them. I'm just trying to verify whether you've 10:24

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 42

1 seen this or not. 10:24

2 A. It could have been part of the ANDA that 10:24

3 I looked at and I don't recall. It might have 10:24

4 been part of the investigation. So it would have 10:24

5 been part of a document associated with this. As 10:24

6 far as a specific, stand-alone process validation, 10:25

7 I don't believe I ever saw one. 10:25

8 Q. Here is Exhibit 1(a), which is the 10:25

9 validation study for Digitek when they ramped the 10:25

10 .125 dose strength up to 4.8 million tablet batch 10:25

11 sizes. 10:25

12 Do you recall whether you've seen that 10:25

13 before? 10:25

14 A. I don't recall seeing this document. 10:25

15 Q. I'm showing you Exhibit 1(b). I believe 10:25

16 this is the process validation when they were 10:25

17 still at the batch size of 1.6 million, but at a 10:25

18 different press speed. 10:25

19 Have you ever seen that? 10:26

20 A. Let me check my documents, please. 10:26

21 Q. Go ahead. Look for every process 10:26

22 validation that you had because I have two more. 10:26

23 Look at the index or something. Are you on or 10:26

24 off? 10:26

25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: On. Would you like me 10:26

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 43

1 to go off? 10:26

2 MR. MORIARTY: Sure. 10:27

3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 10:27

4 a.m. We're going off the record 10:27

5 briefly. 10:27

6 (Short break) 10:30

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 10:30

8 a.m. We are back on the record. 10:30

9 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:30

10 Q. So, so far, we've talked about 1, 1(a) 10:30

11 and 1(b). The question is are those in your 10:30

12 documents that you reviewed to formulate opinions 10:30

13 in this case? 10:30

14 A. Just so you know, this is a list of 10:30

15 every document I reviewed online. I just want to 10:32

16 make sure that I'm not misspeaking, so... 10:32

17 Q. Did you print everything you reviewed 10:32

18 online? 10:32

19 A. No, there's just too much. It does not 10:32

20 appear that I had access nor reviewed process 10:33

21 validation. 10:33

22 Q. Okay. So Exhibit 2, just for 10:33

23 completeness, this is the process validation for 10:33

24 the 4.2 million tablet batch sizes for .25 10:33

25 Digoxin. You haven't seen this document? 10:34

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 44

1 A. No. 10:34

2 Q. And Exhibit 3, did you know that 10:34

3 Digitek, like other Digoxin products, used to be 10:34

4 made in .5 milligrams? 10:34

5 A. I don't recall that fact. 10:34

6 Q. No? This is Exhibit 3. 10:34

7 A. Uh-huh. 10:34

8 Q. This is the process validation for the 10:34

9 .5 milligram Digitek. Have you ever seen that 10:34

10 document? 10:34

11 A. No. 10:34

12 Q. May I see that compendium of documents 10:34

13 you reviewed online but you did not print or put 10:34

14 in your boxes? 10:34

15 A. Sure. 10:34

16 Q. I'm going to put an exhibit sticker on 10:34

17 this. 10:34

18 A. Sure. 10:34

19 Q. These go together, these two? 10:34

20 A. Yes. 10:34

21 Q. Okay. 10:34

22 A. One's for Mylan documents and others 10:34

23 were a Plaintiffs' exhibit, if I'm not mistaken. 10:34

24 Q. Okay. So. I am going -- 10:35

25 A. They were organized differently on the 10:35

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 45

1 website. 10:35

2 Q. I'm going to put Exhibit 107 on the list 10:35

3 you made of the Mylan documents and 108 on the 10:35

4 Plaintiffs' exhibits; okay? 10:35

5 (Whereupon, Exhibits 107 and 108 were marked 10:35

6 for identification) 10:35

7 A. Okay. 10:35

8 Q. I partially obscured your e-mail address 10:35

9 for this one; okay. 10:35

10 Tell us all in general what process validation 10:35

11 is briefly. 10:35

12 A. Briefly, process validation is just the 10:35

13 process of following a protocol, delineating those 10:35

14 critical components in the manufacturing process 10:35

15 that need to be varied and see the observing 10:35

16 effect on the product you have. 10:36

17 Q. Once a pharmaceutical company has 10:36

18 validated a process in manufacturing a 10:36

19 pharmaceutical -- 10:36

20 A. Uh-huh. 10:36

21 Q. -- does that in essence mean that they 10:36

22 have shown that they can make the drug within its 10:36

23 specifications consistently? 10:36

24 A. That is the purpose of process 10:36

25 validation in general. However, I will tell you 10:36

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 46

1 this: I am not a process validation expert. I 10:36
2 support process validation from a laboratory, 10:36
3 cross-functional standpoint, including reviewing 10:36
4 the protocols and looking at the samples that are 10:36
5 to be tested and how they are to be tested. 10:36

6 Q. Okay. So you have been involved in 10:36
7 process validation from the what I would call QC 10:36
8 or lab perspective; right? 10:36

9 A. No, analytical R&D. 10:36

10 Q. Okay. 10:36

11 A. Which is different than a QC. 10:36

12 Q. Not even finished product testing? 10:36

13 A. No, that's not true. I've done both. 10:36

14 Q. Okay. But the fact is that when you 10:37

15 have a process validation for the manufacturer of 10:37

16 a pharmaceutical, it includes the equipment you're 10:37

17 going to use to blend it, press it, package it, 10:37

18 and all the steps you're going to take to test it 10:37

19 to assure as best you can that you consistently 10:37

20 produce the product within its ANDA or NDA or USP 10:37

21 specs; correct? 10:37

22 A. In general I'd say that's a fair 10:37

23 assessment. 10:37

24 Q. And when the FDA approved the ANDA for 10:37

25 Digitek, at least at some point the FDA was 10:37

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 47

1 satisfied that the processes to make that drug had 10:37

2 been validated; correct? 10:37

3 A. By review of the application, what was 10:38

4 in the application and what was associated with 10:38

5 the process validation, yes, at that time. 10:38

6 Q. Okay. Now have you been in the 10:38

7 pharmaceutical business long enough to know what 10:38

8 the batch certification program was? 10:38

9 A. After reviewing the documents related to 10:38

10 this case, yes. 10:38

11 Q. All right. And batch certification was 10:38

12 when you actually had to submit samples of product 10:38

13 to the FDA from a batch before you could ship it 10:38

14 to market; correct? 10:38

15 A. All I know is what I'm familiar with, 10:38

16 with this case, that Digitek was part of that. As 10:38

17 far as other drugs, I couldn't say. 10:38

18 Q. All right. So, for example, have you 10:38

19 ever seen Exhibit 4, which was a letter from FDA 10:38

20 to what later became my client verified or 10:38

21 certifying that these batches could be 10:39

22 distributed? 10:39

23 Have you ever seen that letter? 10:39

24 A. Possibly. 10:39

25 Q. Have you ever seen Exhibit 5? Please 10:39

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 48

1 take a look at Exhibit 5. 10:39

2 A. Uh-huh. 10:39

3 Q. I will tell you that it's a letter from 10:39

4 July 1995 from the FDA to Amide exempting it from 10:39

5 the batch certification process. 10:39

6 Have you ever seen that? 10:39

7 A. I don't recall. 10:39

8 Q. At least -- 10:40

9 A. It's possible it could be part of the 10:40

10 ANDA package and I may have seen it, but I'm not 10:40

11 sure. 10:40

12 Q. At least as of that time -- 10:40

13 A. Uh-huh. 10:40

14 Q. -- FDA was satisfied that Actavis was 10:40

15 making this product within its specifications 10:40

16 consistently so that it didn't need the advance 10:40

17 approval to ship product to market. Is that 10:40

18 essentially what that says? 10:40

19 A. Let me take a look at this. As I 10:40

20 understand the batch certification process back in 10:40

21 1995, from what I have reviewed from these case 10:40

22 documents, I'd say that statement is accurate. 10:40

23 Q. All right. Now have you heard the 10:40

24 phrase in the pharmaceutical business a process 10:40

25 that is in control? 10:40

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 49

1 A. Yes. 10:40

2 Q. So part of process validation is to 10:40

3 assure that your process is in control; correct? 10:41

4 A. Correct. 10:41

5 Q. Now, let's get back to your report and 10:41

6 whether you look at -- 10:41

7 A. Whatever copy, yeah. 10:41

8 Q. And just so you know, I think one 10:41

9 version was produced in the Philadelphia 10:41

10 litigation and the other was produced in the MDL. 10:41

11 I think that's what the difference is. 10:41

12 A. Okay. 10:41

13 Q. So you'll notice that the one on your 10:41

14 right, 94 -- 10:41

15 A. Yes. 10:41

16 Q. -- has a Philadelphia caption on it; 10:41

17 okay? See that up top? 10:41

18 A. Yes. 10:41

19 Q. So look at 92, which was your MDL 10:41

20 report. Now in the first paragraph, where you say 10:41

21 purpose. 10:41

22 A. Uh-huh. 10:41

23 Q. In the last sentence you talk about a 10:41

24 high likelihood that adulterated drug product made 10:41

25 it to the marketplace. 10:42

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 50

1 Do you see that? 10:42

2 A. Yes. 10:42

3 Q. And then if you go all the way back to 10:42

4 your conclusion at page 21, you talk about 10:42

5 adulterated product making it to the marketplace. 10:42

6 Do you see that? 10:42

7 A. Yes, I do. 10:42

8 Q. Now, I reviewed your report pretty 10:42

9 carefully. 10:42

10 A. Uh-huh. 10:42

11 Q. Nowhere do I see you make any statement 10:42

12 in this 21 page report that Digitek which was 10:42

13 actually out of its specifications made it to the 10:42

14 hands of consumers. 10:42

15 Am I correct about that? 10:42

16 A. In this report? 10:42

17 Q. Yes, sir. 10:42

18 A. I don't know if I agree with that. 10:42

19 Q. Let me ask that a different way. 10:43

20 A. Uh-huh. 10:43

21 Q. In the opinions section of your report 10:43

22 -- 10:43

23 A. Uh-huh. 10:43

24 Q. -- anywhere do you say that out of 10:43

25 specification Digitek made it to the hands of 10:43

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 51

1 consumers or to the marketplace? 10:43

2 A. Those specific words, out of 10:43

3 specification? 10:43

4 Q. Yes, sir. 10:43

5 A. I don't believe I used the term "out of 10:44

6 specification." However, if you look at 22, we 10:45

7 have an instance it goes back to my references 10:45

8 that there was a pharmacist in Bellingham, 10:45

9 Washington, who found double-thick tablets which 10:45

10 would be out of specification. 10:45

11 Q. Okay. I'm asking in your opinions 10:45

12 section in your report, that would be a fact upon 10:45

13 which you would rely. I'm asking if in any 10:45

14 opinion section? 10:45

15 A. Used the word specification? 10:45

16 Q. Yeah. No, out of specification. 10:45

17 A. Not that I recall. 10:45

18 Q. Is there anywhere in the opinions 10:45

19 section in your report where you render an opinion 10:45

20 that dangerous Digitek made it to the marketplace 10:45

21 or into the hands of consumers? 10:45

22 A. I did not use the word dangerous; 10:45

23 however, you know it's -- 10:45

24 Q. Is there any place? 10:45

25 MR. KERENSKY: Wait. He just said 10:45

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 52

1 "however." 10:45

2 MR. MORIARTY: I don't. I want answers 10:45

3 to my questions. 10:45

4 MR. KERENSKY: No, he gets to say 10:45

5 "however", if he wants to say "however." 10:46

6 MR. MORIARTY: Go ahead with your 10:46

7 however. 10:46

8 THE WITNESS: However, you look through 10:46

9 the literature that was available to me, it's 10:46

10 obvious that Digitek which was out of 10:46

11 specification -- thick, thin, whatever -- has 10:46

12 showed up several times in the marketplace. 10:46

13 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:46

14 Q. We'll get to that. 10:46

15 A. Okay. 10:46

16 Q. Is there anywhere in your report where 10:46

17 you render an opinion that defective Digitek made 10:46

18 it to the marketplace? 10:46

19 A. I don't believe I used the word 10:46

20 "defective." 10:46

21 Q. Your conclusion in the both the 10:46

22 beginning and end is that it was adulterated; 10:46

23 correct? 10:46

24 A. Digitek that was not manufactured to its 10:46

25 specifications made it to the market; therefore, 10:46

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 53

1 by definition, it would be adulterated. 10:46

2 Q. Can you identify a single Plaintiff in 10:46

3 this litigation who received out-of-specification 10:46

4 Digitek? 10:47

5 A. An individual per se? 10:47

6 Q. Yeah. 10:47

7 A. I'm not familiar with the individuals 10:47

8 who found the cases. 10:47

9 Q. Now, you know what a -- in general what 10:47

10 a double-thick tablet is, do you not? 10:47

11 A. As described in the documents that I 10:47

12 reviewed, I'd say yes. I've personally never seen 10:47

13 any double-thick tablet. 10:47

14 Q. Not even in this litigation, nobody has 10:47

15 ever shown you one; right? 10:47

16 A. From what I understand, nobody retained 10:47

17 any of the double-thick tablets. 10:47

18 Q. Do you have some understanding that 10:47

19 somebody actually had one and threw it away? 10:47

20 A. I wouldn't say that I know they threw it 10:47

21 away. I know they had them. 10:47

22 Q. Oh, tell me who had one. 10:47

23 A. Well, first the pharmacist had one. 10:47

24 Q. In 2003 or 4? 10:48

25 A. I will take a look and see what date 10:48

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 54

1 that was. 10:48

2 Q. Trust me. It was 2003 or 2004 if you're 10:48

3 talking about the Bellingham, Washington 10:48

4 incident. 10:48

5 A. All right. 10:48

6 Q. Okay. So was 2003 Digitek recalled? 10:48

7 A. I don't recall. 10:48

8 Q. When was the first batch of recalled 10:48

9 Digitek manufactured? 10:48

10 A. I have to look. 10:48

11 Q. Do you remember what the FDA said about 10:48

12 the 2004 incident? 10:48

13 A. No. 10:48

14 Q. Do you know what an establishment 10:48

15 inspection report is? 10:48

16 A. I do. 10:48

17 Q. Let me make sure I didn't write on 10:48

18 this. This is the EIR from the fall of 2004. 10:48

19 A. Uh-huh. 10:49

20 Q. First of all, you know that that 10:49

21 double-thick tablet incident was investigated by 10:49

22 Amide; correct? 10:49

23 A. Investigated as part of a manufacturing 10:49

24 investigation? 10:49

25 Q. Yes. 10:49

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 55

1 A. Yes. 10:49

2 Q. And you know that it was reported to the 10:49

3 FDA in a field alert; correct? 10:49

4 A. I've never seen a field alert. 10:49

5 Q. They didn't make that available to you? 10:49

6 A. Not that I recall. It may have been on 10:49

7 the list, but I do not specifically require seeing 10:49

8 a field alert. 10:50

9 MR. FITZPATRICK: And could you pass 10:50

10 Exhibit 5? 10:50

11 MR. MORIARTY: Yeah, but I need my copy 10:50

12 for a second, if you don't mind. 10:50

13 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:50

14 Q. Turn to page 6 of the 2004 EIR. 10:50

15 A. Exhibit 20? 10:50

16 Q. Yes, sir. And first of all, I don't 10:50

17 remember. Have you seen this EIR as part of your 10:50

18 review? 10:50

19 A. No, this is for a preapproval inspection 10:50

20 for another product. 10:50

21 Q. Well, look at page 6. You see the bold, 10:50

22 centered, in all cap, field alert reporting? 10:50

23 A. I do. 10:51

24 Q. All right. It describes this report 10:51

25 from a pharmacist of a quote "thick tablet." 10:51

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 56

1 Do you see that? 10:51

2 A. I do. 10:51

3 Q. From lot 3611(a), with an expiration in 10:51

4 December of '04. 10:51

5 Do you see that? 10:51

6 A. I do. 10:51

7 Q. Now, certainly -- withdraw that. 10:51

8 New Jersey District Compliance Branch was 10:51

9 notified by the site and the investigation was 10:51

10 completed at the time of inspection; correct? 10:51

11 A. That's what it says. 10:51

12 Q. In other words, the company told FDA 10:51

13 about this incident; right? 10:51

14 A. Uh-huh. 10:51

15 Q. That's a yes? 10:51

16 A. At the time of the inspection, yes. 10:51

17 Q. All right. And the field alert report 10:51

18 noted quote, "The most probable cause of the thick 10:51

19 tablet was a set up problem"; correct? Is that 10:51

20 what it says? 10:52

21 A. It says manufacturing set up problem. 10:52

22 Set up, yes. 10:52

23 Q. And then it talks about procedural 10:52

24 enhancements and training, does it not? 10:52

25 A. Yes. 10:52

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 57

1 Q. And then it says, "No additional 10:52
2 complaints or reports of thick tablets have been 10:52
3 received for this high volume product. The event 10:52
4 was considered an isolated incident and corrective 10:52
5 actions were put in place to prevent its 10:52
6 reoccurrence. Corrective actions were verified 10:52
7 during the inspection." 10:52

8 Did I read that correctly? 10:52

9 A. Corrective actions, procedural 10:52
10 enhancements, review of complaint files were 10:52
11 verified during inspection. 10:52

12 Q. Correct? 10:52

13 A. Yes, that's what it says. 10:52

14 Q. Do you have some reason to disagree with 10:52
15 the FDA that this event was an isolated incident? 10:52

16 A. Yes, I do. 10:52

17 Q. Okay. Show me any evidence that you 10:52
18 have that any extra thick tablet made it into the 10:52
19 hands of a pharmacist or consumer after 2004. 10:52

20 MR. FITZPATRICK: Let me interpose an 10:53
21 objection as to form. 10:53

22 BY MR. MORIARTY: 10:53

23 Q. What are you looking for? 10:53

24 A. I'm looking for an e-mail chain that 10:53
25 shows a pharmacist somewhere in Massachusetts 10:53

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 58

1 found double-thick tablets in a card. 10:53

2 Q. Excellent. Here it is. Okay. I'm 10:53

3 showing you Exhibit 59. Is that the document that 10:54

4 you are looking at from your own file? 10:54

5 A. No, it's not. 10:55

6 Q. Yeah, it's not because my staff didn't 10:55

7 copy the second page. Let me see that, please. 10:55

8 A. Sure. The yellow tab is the specific 10:55

9 reference to it. 10:55

10 Q. Okay. That is supposed to be Exhibit 10:55

11 59. 10:55

12 A. Okay. 10:55

13 Q. My staff did not copy the part at the 10:55

14 back; okay? 10:55

15 A. Okay. 10:55

16 Q. So let me ask you some questions about 10:55

17 that. 10:55

18 It's in an e-mail; correct? 10:55

19 A. It is. 10:55

20 Q. Have you seen any evidence that that 10:55

21 tablet or card of tablets was returned to Actavis 10:55

22 or Mylan for analysis? 10:56

23 A. I have not seen any documentation that 10:56

24 shows that any chemical testing has been done on 10:56

25 any of the thick, thin, or whatever tablets. 10:56

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 59

1 Q. I didn't ask about chemical testing. 10:56

2 All I did was ask if you've seen any documents to 10:56

3 indicate that that tablet or card of tablets was 10:56

4 returned to Actavis or Mylan. 10:56

5 A. This is the only reference that I've 10:56

6 seen with respect to these. 10:56

7 Q. And it contains no statement that the 10:56

8 tablet or tablets were returned to Actavis or 10:57

9 Mylan; correct? 10:57

10 A. This e-mail does not say that it was 10:57

11 returned. 10:57

12 Q. Was it in a blister pack? 10:57

13 A. It says the card had four tablets. 10:57

14 Q. Do you take that to mean blister pack? 10:58

15 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure what it 10:58

16 means. 10:58

17 Q. Was it removed from the card or blister 10:58

18 pack? 10:58

19 A. It says here just that the remaining 10:58

20 tablets are in a blister pack -- not a blister 10:58

21 pack but a card. That's it. That's all that it 10:58

22 says. 10:58

23 Q. Do you know anything about the 10:58

24 manufacturer specifications of the card or blister 10:58

25 pack in which those tablets were? 10:58

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 60

1 A. No, I don't know anything about those. 10:58

2 Q. So you don't know whether a blister pack 10:58

3 would even accommodate an extra thick tablet, do 10:58

4 you? 10:58

5 A. I'd have to go look at the documentation 10:59

6 because some of the documents I reviewed with 10:59

7 respect to UDL talks about that issue. 10:59

8 Q. And if this blister pack or card had 10:59

9 been made by UDL, a double-thick tablet couldn't 10:59

10 fit in it, could it? 10:59

11 A. I couldn't say. 10:59

12 Q. Do you remember what the specs were? 10:59

13 A. I don't remember the specs. 10:59

14 Q. Would a wise and prudent manufacturer 10:59

15 use so much raw materials of plastic and tinfoil 10:59

16 to accommodate more space than they needed in the 10:59

17 blister pack? 10:59

18 A. Could you say that again? 10:59

19 Q. Would a prudent manufacturer use more 10:59

20 plastic and tinfoil than needed to package the 10:59

21 tablets in a blister pack? 10:59

22 A. I don't think you can draw the 10:59

23 conclusion that a double tablet would not fit in a 10:59

24 blister pack. You just don't have enough 10:59

25 information to do that. 10:59

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 61

1 Q. You don't. 10:59

2 A. No. I don't think anybody does from the 10:59
3 literature I've read. 11:00

4 Q. Okay. Did anybody in that e-mail remove 11:00
5 a tablet and measure it with a micrometer? 11:00

6 A. Not according to this e-mail. And 11:00
7 that's a really interesting point out of all of 11:00
8 this that's very striking when you look at all the 11:00
9 data. 11:00

10 Q. You have to answer my question. 11:00

11 MR. KERENSKY: He just said he did. 11:00

12 MR. MORIARTY: I don't want a speech, 11:00
13 Mike. I want to know whether anybody 11:00
14 indicates that they removed it and measured it 11:00
15 with a micrometer, yes or no? 11:00

16 THE WITNESS: In this e-mail, no. 11:00

17 MR. KERENSKY: Wait a minute. Wait a 11:00
18 minute. 11:00

19 MR. MORIARTY: I'm going to let him make 11:00
20 his speech in minute; okay? 11:00

21 MR. KERENSKY: Let him finish his answer. 11:00

22 MR. MORIARTY: I want to ask my 11:00
23 questions. 11:00

24 MR. KERENSKY: Let him finish his 11:00
25 answer. Right now. 11:00

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 62

1 MR. MORIARTY: He did. He said correct. 11:00

2 MR. KERENSKY: He did not. You 11:00

3 interrupted him right in the middle? 11:00

4 Q. Now if you -- 11:00

5 MR. KERENSKY: Stop. The deposition is 11:00

6 stopped. 11:00

7 MR. MORIARTY: You think you have the 11:00

8 authority to do that under PTL 22? 11:00

9 MR. KERENSKY: I think I do. I'll take 11:00

10 the chance. Are you going to let him finish 11:00

11 his answer? 11:00

12 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:00

13 Q. Go ahead and finish your speech. 11:00

14 A. Speech? 11:00

15 Q. Yeah, go ahead. 11:00

16 A. I -- to tell you the truth -- because of 11:00

17 that exchange, I don't know where the question 11:00

18 was. 11:01

19 MR. KERENSKY: Okay. Let's go back up 11:01

20 and pick up where he interrupted you and then 11:01

21 you can finish your thought. You have the 11:01

22 right to do that. 11:01

23 (Whereupon, the testimony was read 11:01

24 back by the court reporter, as recorded above) 11:01

25 MR. KERENSKY: Finish your thought and 11:01

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 63

1 then move on. 11:01

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's been 11:01

3 demonstrated that a significant number -- when 11:01

4 you look at FDA findings and reports or 11:01

5 whatever -- of double-thick tablets that were 11:01

6 produced, nobody ever performed any testing on 11:01

7 those, according to the record that I can 11:01

8 find. Which is really unusual because we 11:01

9 don't know whether it's out of spec or in 11:01

10 spec, all the points that you are going to, 11:01

11 you just don't know because nobody apparently 11:02

12 did it. Or if they did it, they didn't report 11:02

13 it. 11:02

14 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:02

15 Q. Are you done? 11:02

16 A. Yes, sir. 11:02

17 Q. So according to this e-mail, whatever 11:02

18 tablet or tablets those were -- first of all, it 11:02

19 only refers to one tablet doesn't it, in the 11:02

20 card? It doesn't say all four were double; right? 11:02

21 A. It says please be advised that Lynne 11:02

22 Farrell of CSC reports finding a card of Digoxin 11:02

23 with one double thick tablet at GL-Gloucester. 11:02

24 Q. What a CSC? 11:02

25 A. I don't know. 11:02

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 64

1 Q. So you don't know anything about the 11:02
2 reliability of this person who supposedly found 11:02
3 this; correct? 11:02

4 A. It's an e-mail. It would be difficult 11:02
5 to do that. 11:02

6 Q. All right. And certainly this was not 11:02
7 in the hands or mouth of a consumer; correct? 11:02

8 A. This particular one right here? 11:02

9 Q. Right. 11:02

10 A. From the e-mail, that's the conclusion 11:02
11 you could probably draw. 11:02

12 Q. If you were using the scientific method 11:02
13 to figure out -- you're called in as a consultant 11:02
14 to find out if double-thick tablets have actually 11:03
15 made it to the hands of consumers and you're using 11:03
16 the scientific method with data, this e-mail is 11:03
17 not a particularly reliable report, is it? 11:03

18 MR. FITZPATRICK: Object to the form. 11:03

19 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't consider this a 11:03
20 report. It's a statement in an e-mail. 11:03

21 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:03

22 Q. So it's not reliable data for you as a 11:03
23 scientist to conclude that that was in fact a 11:03
24 double-thick tablet; is that correct? 11:03

25 A. I don't think that's correct. It's 11:03

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 65

1 something that starts a formal investigation. 11:03

2 It's a piece of data. 11:03

3 Q. With no measurement and no removal from 11:03

4 its packaging; correct? 11:03

5 A. Correct. But observation is one of the 11:04

6 critical components to scientific experiment. And 11:04

7 observations such as this are critical when you're 11:04

8 conducting investigations. 11:04

9 Q. Have you ever tried to observe the 11:04

10 thickness down to the millimeter of a tablet in a 11:04

11 blister pack? 11:04

12 A. In a blister pack? 11:04

13 Q. Yeah. 11:04

14 A. Down to the millimeter? 11:04

15 Q. Yes, sir. That's how thin these tablets 11:04

16 are, isn't it? 11:04

17 A. I forget what the spec is for 11:04

18 thickness. Me, personally, looking a blister pack 11:04

19 -- 11:04

20 Q. Yes. 11:04

21 A. -- and trying to estimate what the 11:04

22 thickness would be, no, I had no -- would have no 11:04

23 desire or need to do that. You wouldn't estimate 11:04

24 if you're trying to come up with a spec. You'd 11:04

25 measure it. 11:04

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 66

1 Q. So we started this line of questions 11:04

2 with you know what a double-thick tablet is or an 11:04

3 oversized tablet; correct? 11:04

4 A. As they're referring to it in this 11:04

5 deposition, yes. 11:05

6 Q. In any context in the pharmaceutical 11:05

7 industry if somebody said to you we have oversized 11:05

8 tablets or double-thick tablets, you know what 11:05

9 that is; right? 11:05

10 A. This is the first time that I've heard 11:05

11 reference in the industry to a double-thick 11:05

12 tablet. It's that unique a situation. 11:05

13 Q. Okay. Do you know how many recalls 11:05

14 there have been in the last 36 months for extra 11:05

15 thick tablets in the pharmaceutical industry? 11:05

16 A. I do not. 11:05

17 Q. And you know what a normal tablet with 11:05

18 too much active pharmaceutical ingredient is, 11:05

19 don't you? 11:05

20 A. I don't know if I understand the 11:05

21 question. You can't just look at a tablet and 11:05

22 know how much ingredient is in it. 11:05

23 Q. I didn't imply or ask you if you could. 11:05

24 But a normal-sized tablet could have too much 11:05

25 active pharmaceutical ingredient; correct? 11:05

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 67

1 A. Yes. 11:05

2 Q. You could assay or content uniformity 11:05

3 test that tablet to determine that; correct? 11:05

4 A. Yes. 11:05

5 Q. Do you know enough about the 11:06

6 manufacturing process to say whether the root 11:06

7 cause of an extra thick is typically different 11:06

8 than the root cause of a normal size with too much 11:06

9 active pharmaceutical ingredient? 11:06

10 A. Say that again. 11:06

11 (Whereupon, the testimony was read back 11:06

12 by the court reporter, as recorded above) 11:06

13 THE WITNESS: Based on the information 11:06

14 and the data that I have here, Actavis 11:06

15 specifically indicated that there were 11:06

16 problems in the manufacturing of this product 11:06

17 very early on. It was very difficult. In 11:06

18 19-- whatever, 2000. And it took them a lot 11:06

19 to do it. And as they moved forward and they 11:07

20 had problems, they had problems with blend 11:07

21 uniformity and then obviously with 11:07

22 manufacturing the tablet and, therefore, it is 11:07

23 possible -- based on the information I looked 11:07

24 at -- that you could have both of those 11:07

25 problems because of difficulties with blend 11:07

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 68

1 uniformity and with tableting. It's possible. 11:07

2 MR. MORIARTY: Motion to strike. It was 11:07

3 completely non-responsive to my question. 11:07

4 MR. KERENSKY: He has to do that for the 11:07

5 judge. 11:07

6 THE WITNESS: I understand. 11:07

7 MR. KERENSKY: That's fine. 11:07

8 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:07

9 Q. I'm talking about manufacturing tablets 11:07
10 and whether you have any knowledge of whether 11:07
11 those two distinct problems in manufacturing have 11:07
12 different root causes. 11:07

13 A. In general? 11:07

14 Q. Yes. 11:07

15 A. Say that again, please. 11:08

16 Q. Okay. 11:08

17 A. Because it's a very broad statement. 11:08

18 Q. Let's get back to basics. 11:08

19 A. Okay. 11:08

20 Q. If somebody says you have extra thick or 11:08
21 double-thick tablets, that's a reference to size; 11:08
22 correct? 11:08

23 A. I would assume so, yes. 11:08

24 Q. All right. And that size could be 11:08
25 caused by too much active pharmaceutical 11:08

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 69

1 ingredient, too much excipient, inadequate 11:08

2 compression making a fluffy tablet, double 11:08

3 compression, could be caused by any number of 11:08

4 things; correct? 11:08

5 A. That's -- there are many things it could 11:08

6 be, yes. 11:08

7 Q. All right. So a normal-sized tablet 11:08

8 with too much active pharmaceutical ingredient is 11:08

9 a different problem in the pharmaceutical 11:08

10 manufacturing process, isn't it? 11:08

11 A. I don't think you can say that 11:09

12 exclusively. I think that, you know, it's a 11:09

13 manufacturing train, it's a process. And if you 11:09

14 don't have control of your process, it's possible 11:09

15 to have those two events as a failure in the 11:09

16 process. 11:09

17 Q. I'm not asking whether you can only have 11:09

18 one or the other. I'm asking whether they're 11:09

19 different. And if a tablet is normal-sized, by 11:09

20 definition it's not extra-thick or double-thick; 11:09

21 correct? 11:09

22 A. Yes. 11:09

23 Q. So a normal-sized tablet with too much 11:09

24 ABI, the problem is the amount of active 11:09

25 pharmaceutical ingredient; correct? 11:09

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 70

1 A. I'm not trying to be difficult. I'm 11:09

2 just trying to understand the question here. I 11:09

3 apologize. 11:09

4 Q. If I said to you -- 11:09

5 A. Uh-huh. 11:09

6 Q. -- Mr. Bliesner, I want you to come in 11:09

7 and consult with my pharmaceutical manufacturing 11:10

8 company. 11:10

9 A. Uh-huh. 11:10

10 Q. Our tablets are double-thick. 11:10

11 A. Uh-huh. 11:10

12 Q. And I tell you nothing more. 11:10

13 A. Uh-huh. 11:10

14 Q. The problem is a size problem to start 11:10

15 with; correct? 11:10

16 A. Uh-huh. 11:10

17 Q. Is that a yes? 11:10

18 A. Double-thick, yes. 11:10

19 Q. All right. At some point you'd get to 11:10

20 the issue of what the active pharmaceutical 11:10

21 content of those tablets is if you were doing an 11:10

22 investigation; correct? 11:10

23 A. Yes, it would be one of the first things 11:10

24 you'd do. 11:10

25 Q. But if I told you that my problem was 11:10

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 71

1 normal-sized tablets with too much API, the 11:10

2 investigation process would be different, correct, 11:10

3 because the problem is different. 11:10

4 A. Actually, no. 11:10

5 Q. All right. Well, the focus would be on 11:10

6 why is there too much API; right? 11:10

7 A. I don't think you'd look at those things 11:10

8 mutually exclusively. 11:10

9 Q. Do you think the FDA knows the 11:10

10 difference between extra-thick tablets and tablets 11:10

11 of normal size but too much Digoxin? 11:10

12 A. I'm sure they do. 11:11

13 Q. Have you seen the FDA approved press 11:11

14 release for this recall? 11:11

15 A. I'm not sure. 11:11

16 Q. There you go. Exhibit 36. Have you 11:11

17 seen this? 11:11

18 A. Yes, I have. 11:12

19 Q. Okay. It says: 11:12

20 "The voluntary all-out recall is due to the 11:12

21 possibility that tablets with double the 11:12

22 appropriate thickness may have been commercially 11:12

23 released." 11:12

24 A. It does say that. 11:12

25 Q. And in this sentence, the words 11:12

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 72

1 "possibility" and "may" are different than 11:12

2 "probability" "likely" and "certainty"; correct? 11:12

3 MR. KERENSKY: Objection, vague. 11:12

4 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:12

5 Q. Is that right? 11:12

6 A. Again, we're back to the definition of 11:12

7 "probable" and "possible." 11:12

8 Q. Which you don't know the difference; 11:12

9 right? 11:12

10 A. In the context in this industry, as 11:12

11 having sat down and thought about it, like I said 11:12

12 before, no. 11:12

13 Q. Well, at least the sentence "FDA 11:12

14 approved" doesn't say that we know for a fact that 11:13

15 double-thick tablets were commercially released; 11:13

16 right? It doesn't say that. 11:13

17 A. It does not say that. However, I have 11:13

18 never seen a recall notice that says absolutely. 11:13

19 This is the way they're stated. 11:13

20 Q. And then it says these tablets may 11:13

21 contain twice the approved level of active 11:13

22 ingredient than is appropriate; correct? 11:13

23 A. It does say that. 11:13

24 Q. Have you seen any FDA document which 11:13

25 says that this recall was for normal-sized tablets 11:13

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 73

1 with too much active pharmaceutical ingredient? 11:13

2 A. Recall document? 11:13

3 Q. Any document. Any -- 11:13

4 A. Any document? 11:13

5 Q. Any document from the FDA. 11:13

6 A. Say it again. Again -- 11:13

7 Q. Have you seen any -- 11:13

8 A. -- I'm not trying to be difficult. I 11:13

9 just want to make sure I answer your question 11:13

10 correctly. 11:13

11 Q. Have you seen any document from the 11:13

12 FDA -- whether it's a paper they promulgated, a 11:14

13 report, or a 483 warning letter, anything -- or 11:14

14 even their website -- to indicate that this recall 11:14

15 was for normal-sized tablets with too much 11:14

16 Digoxin. 11:14

17 A. Not that I recall. 11:14

18 Q. To your recollection, did the FDA ever 11:14

19 cite, warn, or observe that Digitek with normal 11:14

20 size but too much active pharmaceutical ingredient 11:14

21 had reached the marketplace? 11:14

22 A. Can I take a look real quick at my 11:15

23 report? 11:15

24 Q. Sure. 11:15

25 A. My notes and my report, I don't have any 11:18

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 74

1 record of the FDA making a statement like that. 11:18

2 Q. Please look at Exhibit 38. Terry, I'll 11:18

3 give you a copy. 11:18

4 Do you know if you've ever seen this before, 11:18

5 Mr. Bliesner? 11:18

6 A. I think I may have. 11:18

7 Q. All right. Exhibit 38 is a printout 11:18

8 from the FDA's website. I believe this was posted 11:18

9 in July of 2009, a year and a quarter after the 11:18

10 recall. 11:18

11 Go to the second page, please. 11:19

12 A. Uh-huh. 11:19

13 Q. First of all, this is called Facts and 11:19

14 Myths About Generic Drugs; right? 11:19

15 A. Yes. 11:19

16 Q. And on the second page it says, "Myth, 11:19

17 there are quality problems with generic drug 11:19

18 manufacturing. A recent recall of generic 11:19

19 Digoxin -- called Digitek -- shows that generic 11:19

20 drugs put patients at risk." 11:19

21 Did I read that correctly? 11:19

22 A. Yes. 11:19

23 Q. And then it says, "Fact. FDA's 11:19

24 aggressive action in this case demonstrates the 11:19

25 high standards to which all prescription drugs -- 11:19

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 75

1 generic and brand name -- are held"; correct? 11:19

2 A. Correct. 11:19

3 Q. All right. Let's go down to the third 11:19

4 bullet point. 11:19

5 A. Yes. 11:19

6 Q. Well, actually, let's go to the second 11:19

7 bullet point. Well, I'm sorry. Withdraw that. 11:20

8 Look at the first three bullet points. 11:20

9 A. Okay. 11:20

10 Q. All right. What they are describing in 11:20

11 the first three bullet points is the incident in 11:20

12 November, December, January 2007 to 2008 regarding 11:20

13 batch 70924 with the 20 double-thick tablets; 11:20

14 correct? 11:20

15 A. I don't know if that's the specific 11:20

16 batch. I'd have to go back and look it up. 11:20

17 Q. Trust me. 11:20

18 A. Yeah. 11:20

19 Q. Okay. That's that they're talking 11:20

20 about; right? 11:20

21 A. It appears. 11:20

22 Q. All right. So in the third bullet point 11:20

23 it says: 11:20

24 "Although Actavis attempted to remove the 11:20

25 affected Digitek through visual inspection, FDA 11:20

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 76

1 determined that this method of removal was 11:20

2 inadequate to assure the product quality and 11:20

3 consistency in accordance with the current good 11:21

4 manufacturing practice regulations"; correct? 11:21

5 A. Sure. 11:21

6 Q. So what they're referring to is an 11:21

7 inspection issue; is that right? 11:21

8 A. A visual inspection. 11:21

9 Q. Yes. 11:21

10 A. Correct. 11:21

11 Q. Bullet point 4, second sentence: 11:21

12 "In our best judgment, given the very small 11:21

13 number of defective tablets that may have reached 11:21

14 the market and the lack of reported adverse events 11:21

15 before the recall, harm to patients was very 11:21

16 unlikely." 11:21

17 First of all, did I read it correctly? 11:21

18 A. You read it as written. 11:21

19 Q. Do you have some reason to disagree with 11:21

20 the FDA's findings in this regard? 11:21

21 A. Absolutely. 11:21

22 Q. What's the basis for your disagreement 11:21

23 with FDA? 11:21

24 A. My disagreement with FDA, first of all, 11:21

25 there's political overtones that are always 11:21

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 77

1 associated with these statements reporting to the 11:21
2 press at the FDA. And if you go back and look at 11:22
3 the FDA's record over the course of, you know, the 11:22
4 last 20 years if you will, approximately, go back 11:22
5 and look at the timeline, the FDA has repeatedly 11:22
6 found this company to be in significant violation 11:22
7 of the GMPs. To my knowledge, this is only 11:22
8 company that's ever been under consent decree 11:22
9 twice. 11:22

10 Q. Are you done with your answer? 11:22

11 A. For now, yes. 11:22

12 Q. Okay. Can you explain to us all, 11:22
13 please, what expertise you have in the political 11:22
14 analysis of the FDA? 11:22

15 Can you explain that to me, please, what 11:23
16 expertise you have from your background, training, 11:23
17 and experience, that you can assess the political 11:23
18 overtones or motivations of this statement on the 11:23
19 website? 11:23

20 A. In my experience, recent experience, I 11:23
21 see serious discussions that go on between two 11:23
22 major branches within the FDA that are often in 11:23
23 conflict with one another. Drug shortage, for 11:23
24 instance, and compliance. And they are very 11:23
25 politically motivated and their purpose is that 11:23

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 78

1 their ends are -- end missions are different. 11:23

2 That's my experience of it. 11:24

3 Q. Is that a scientific opinion? 11:24

4 A. We're talking about politics. 11:24

5 Q. Okay. So what would be the political 11:24

6 motivation a year and a quarter after a recall for 11:24

7 them to say this about the number of defective 11:24

8 tablets that may have reached the market and the 11:24

9 level of risk to consumers? 11:24

10 A. Why would they say that? 11:24

11 Q. Yeah. What data do you have to say that 11:24

12 this is somehow politically motivated? What's 11:24

13 your -- what's your underlying data? 11:24

14 A. The underlying data is their 11:24

15 documentation in the establishment inspection 11:24

16 reports that shows gross violation of the GMPs 11:24

17 throughout the history of this company and that 11:24

18 they approved them after the first consent decree 11:24

19 as being okay and they ended up right back in the 11:24

20 same place. So I would be hard pressed to want to 11:24

21 admit in public that they may have potentially not 11:24

22 served their mission correctly after the first 11:25

23 consent decree. 11:25

24 Q. So if I understand what you're saying, 11:25

25 the FDA soft-pedaled this statement about the 11:25

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 79

1 Digitek recall to deflect attention from their 11:25

2 lack of oversight for the company; is that right? 11:25

3 A. Politically it's a possibility. 11:25

4 Q. Is it a probability? 11:25

5 A. I don't -- I don't agree with that 11:25

6 statement. 11:25

7 Q. Is it a probability? 11:25

8 A. I couldn't go anywhere back to 11:25

9 possibility, probability either. 11:25

10 Q. Is it a certainty? 11:25

11 A. I don't know. We're talking politics 11:25

12 here, we're not talking science. We shifted from 11:25

13 science to politics. 11:25

14 Q. I didn't; you did. I'm asking whether 11:25

15 you have some data to support the opinion you're 11:25

16 now giving. 11:25

17 A. It's my opinion and it's a political 11:25

18 one. And there are no direct data other than the 11:25

19 FDA's voluminous EIR 483 inspections, warning 11:25

20 letters. 11:25

21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is . We 11:26

22 are going off the record briefly. 11:26

23 (Short break) 11:31

24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is now 11:31

25 11:32 a.m. We are back on the record. This 11:31

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 80

1 is the beginning of tape three. 11:31

2 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:31

3 Q. Mr. Bliesner, the -- or Dr. Bliesner I'm 11:31

4 sorry -- the -- I haven't asked you this in any 11:32

5 detail. I will get to it later. 11:32

6 I assume that your opinions in this case about 11:32

7 adulterated product are based on 483s; is that 11:32

8 correct? 11:32

9 A. Partially. 11:32

10 Q. And warning letters? 11:32

11 A. Partially. 11:32

12 Q. And establishment inspection reports? 11:32

13 A. Partially. 11:32

14 Q. Those are all FDA documents; correct? 11:32

15 A. Correct. 11:32

16 Q. And are they based on the fact that 11:32

17 there have been two consent decrees? 11:32

18 A. What's based on two consent? 11:32

19 Q. Your opinions. 11:32

20 A. Partially. 11:32

21 Q. Okay. And those are, although not FDA 11:32

22 documents, they're negotiated with the FDA; is 11:33

23 that correct? 11:33

24 A. Consent decree? 11:33

25 Q. Yeah. 11:33

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 81

1 A. Yes. 11:33

2 Q. Okay. So what other documents besides 11:33

3 FDA documents are your opinions based on that my 11:33

4 client made adulterated Digitek, in general? 11:33

5 A. In general? 11:33

6 Q. Yeah. 11:33

7 A. E-mail communications within the 11:33

8 company. Responses to 483 warning letters. 11:33

9 Q. Anything else? 11:33

10 A. Investigations. 11:33

11 Q. Those are by the FDA; correct? 11:33

12 A. A. No, internal investigations. 11:33

13 (Interruption) 11:34

14 MR. MORIARTY: We can go off the record. 11:34

15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is now 11:34

16 11:33 a.m. We are going off the record. 11:34

17 (Short break) 11:35

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is now 11:35

19 a.m. We are back on the record. 11:35

20 THE WITNESS: The Marine Corps kicked in 11:35

21 there for a second. 11:35

22 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:35

23 Q. Have any of the companies that you 11:35

24 worked for in the pharmaceutical business or with 11:35

25 which you've consulted had recalls? 11:35

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 82

1 A. Yes. 11:35

2 Q. Have there been recalls in your 11:35

3 experience where there was no actual proof that 11:35

4 there was out of specification, dangerous product 11:35

5 in the market? 11:35

6 A. I'm sorry. Still a bit distracted. 11:35

7 Please. 11:35

8 Q. Okay. In your experience, have there 11:35

9 been recalls of pharmaceutical product to the 11:35

10 consumer level where there was no actual proof 11:35

11 that there was out of specification, dangerous 11:36

12 product in the hands of consumers? 11:36

13 A. I can't think of a specific example. 11:36

14 Q. In general have there been? 11:36

15 A. Possibly. 11:36

16 Q. Okay. So, for example, there could be a 11:36

17 recall of a drug product because of a packaging 11:36

18 issue. The label might be on upside down; is that 11:36

19 right? 11:36

20 A. Correct. 11:36

21 Q. So the mere fact that there's a recall 11:36

22 does not in and of itself mean that the product is 11:36

23 out of spec and dangerous to the consumer; right? 11:36

24 A. That's correct. 11:36

25 Q. You want to know more about that if 11:36

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 83

1 you're going to -- if you're going to determine 11:36
2 whether it's actually out of spec and dangerous to 11:36
3 consumers, you want to know more than just the 11:36
4 fact that there was a recall; right? 11:36

5 A. Yes. 11:36

6 Q. Okay. Now, if the FDA says in effect 11:36
7 that a product is adulterated, does that always 11:37
8 lead to a recall? 11:37

9 A. No. 11:37

10 Q. Why not? 11:37

11 A. Numerous reasons it could be that way. 11:37

12 Q. Give me some, please. 11:37

13 A. Hasn't shipped is the first thing that 11:37
14 comes to mind. 11:37

15 Q. Okay. 11:37

16 A. That would be the primary one. 11:37

17 Q. Any others? 11:37

18 A. No. But, I'm not an expert in recalls. 11:37

19 Q. Okay. Well, the FDA could determine 11:37
20 that there is adulterated product and have a 11:37
21 recall not to the consumer level also; correct? 11:37

22 A. As I understand, yes. 11:38

23 Q. In other words, the FDA in effect is 11:38
24 making a determination that whatever product is 11:38
25 being recalled isn't necessarily dangerous to the 11:38

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 84

1 consumers; right? 11:38

2 A. A recall can be of something that isn't 11:38

3 necessarily an immediate danger as I understand 11:38

4 it, not being an expert in recalls. 11:38

5 Q. Okay. So I'm showing you Exhibit 39. 11:38

6 Have you ever seen that before? 11:38

7 A. I don't think so. 11:39

8 Q. All right. This is a printout from the 11:39

9 FDA's website. 11:39

10 A. Uh-huh. 11:39

11 Q. And it's entitled "Facts About Current 11:39

12 Good Manufacturing Practices"; correct? 11:39

13 A. It is titled that, yes. 11:39

14 Q. And the fourth bold section down, says: 11:39

15 "If a manufacturer is not following cGMPs, are 11:39

16 drug product safe for use; correct"? 11:39

17 A. It is. 11:39

18 Q. The first sentence reads, "If the 11:39

19 company is not complying with cGMP regulations, 11:39

20 any drug it makes is considered adulterated under 11:39

21 the law." 11:39

22 Did I read it correctly? 11:39

23 A. You did. 11:39

24 Q. Do you agree with it? 11:39

25 A. By definition, I would agree with that. 11:39

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 85

1 Q. The next sentence says: 11:39

2 "This kind of adulteration means that the 11:39

3 drugs was not manufactured under conditions that 11:40

4 complied with GMP, cGMP." 11:40

5 Did I read it correctly? 11:40

6 A. You did. 11:40

7 Q. Do you agree with that? 11:40

8 A. By definition, yes. 11:40

9 Q. The next sentence says: 11:40

10 "It does not mean that there is necessarily 11:40

11 something wrong with the drug." 11:40

12 Did I read it correctly? 11:40

13 A. You did. 11:40

14 Q. Do you agree with it? 11:40

15 A. Something wrong with the drug? It's a 11:40

16 broad statement; but as it's written, I would 11:40

17 agree. 11:40

18 Q. All right. So in other words, the fact 11:40

19 that a drug may be considered adulterated does not 11:40

20 necessarily mean that it is outside its 11:40

21 specifications; right? 11:40

22 A. Yes. 11:40

23 Q. Because a drug could be adulterated for 11:40

24 a lot of different reasons having nothing to do 11:40

25 with the potency of the drug; right? 11:40

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 86

1 A. Correct. 11:40

2 Q. Do you know how many batches of Digitek 11:41

3 were involved in the recall in 2008? 11:41

4 A. Off the top of my head, no. 11:41

5 Q. How many batch records did you look at? 11:41

6 A. For? 11:41

7 Q. Digitek. 11:41

8 A. I looked at the batch records during the 11:41

9 ANDA, and I don't recall the number that were in 11:41

10 there. 11:42

11 Q. Is that all? 11:42

12 A. I'd have to check. Do you want me to 11:42

13 take the time to do that? 11:42

14 Q. Well, let me ask you this: Did you look 11:42

15 at the batch that was involved in the double-thick 11:42

16 investigation in 2007 and 8? Did you look at the 11:42

17 batch record, I should say. 11:42

18 A. I looked -- I'm pretty sure I've looked 11:42

19 at the investigation. And how much the batch 11:42

20 record was part of that, I'm not sure. I'm pretty 11:42

21 sure I looked at that investigation. 11:42

22 Q. But you're not sure if you've ever 11:42

23 looked at that entire batch record? 11:42

24 A. No. 11:42

25 Q. And other than -- 11:42

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 87

1 A. No. 11:42

2 Q. -- what was in the ANDA, you can't tell 11:42

3 me that you looked at any other Digitek batch 11:42

4 records? 11:43

5 A. No, I haven't. 11:43

6 Q. All right. Do you know how many tablets 11:43

7 would have been involved in the Digitek recall? 11:43

8 A. Since I don't know how many batches 11:43

9 there were and what the exact number without 11:43

10 looking at it is, I couldn't tell you. 11:43

11 Q. All right. Do you know how many other 11:43

12 recall batches were of the dose level of .125? 11:43

13 A. Again, the same answer. I don't 11:43

14 remember the batches there were without 11:43

15 referring -- knowing how many tablets per batch, 11:43

16 what they would be. 11:43

17 Q. Do you have an opinion to a reasonable 11:43

18 degree of probability -- in other words, more 11:43

19 likely than not. 11:43

20 A. Probability more likely than not? 11:43

21 Q. How many of the Digitek tablets that 11:43

22 were recalled were outside their size 11:43

23 specifications? 11:44

24 A. Okay. 11:44

25 Q. Are you writing on an Exhibit? 11:44

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 88

1 A. Oh. 11:44

2 Q. A marked Exhibit? 11:44

3 A. Yes. I'm sorry. That's my notes. 11:44

4 MR. KERENSKY: Maybe we should put the 11:44
5 pen away. 11:44

6 THE WITNESS: Take them away from me. 11:44
7 Sorry. 11:44

8 MR. MORIARTY: Kind of like guns. The 11:44
9 problem is the pen, not the paper; okay. 11:44

10 BY MR. MORIARTY: 11:44

11 Q. Do you remember my question? Do you 11:44
12 remember my question? 11:44

13 A. No, I don't remember. 11:44

14 Q. Do you have an opinion to a reasonable 11:44
15 degree of probability how many of the recalled 11:44
16 Digitek tablets were outside their size 11:44
17 specifications? 11:44

18 A. The recalled batches in the total 11:44
19 number? 11:44

20 Q. Yeah. 11:44

21 A. Since I don't know how many are out 11:44
22 there, there's no way in the world that I could 11:44
23 estimate that. 11:44

24 Q. Do you have an opinion to a probability 11:44
25 of how many recalled Digitek tablets were outside 11:44

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 89

1 their United States pharmacopeia specifications 11:45

2 for active pharmaceutical ingredient? 11:45

3 A. In my opinion, I don't think there's 11:45

4 enough information for anybody to determine that. 11:45

5 Q. Now, have you ever seen a report of a 11:45

6 Digitek tablet from a Plaintiff in this litigation 11:45

7 that was outside its size specifications? 11:45

8 A. Say that again, please. 11:45

9 Q. Sure. In the course of your work -- 11:45

10 A. Yes. 11:45

11 Q. -- to prepare for this report -- 11:45

12 A. Yes. 11:45

13 Q. -- for today's deposition -- 11:45

14 A. Yes. 11:46

15 Q. -- have you seen either a tablet or the 11:46

16 report of a tablet from a Plaintiff in the 11:46

17 litigation that says that that tablet was outside 11:46

18 its size specifications? 11:46

19 A. I would need to check the report again 11:46

20 to make sure. 11:46

21 Q. You can, but I guarantee you there was 11:46

22 no discussion of such thing in your report. But 11:46

23 if you'd like to check, you go right ahead. 11:46

24 A. I would. 11:46

25 Q. While you're looking, I want you to also 11:46

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 90

1 look to see whether you have any report from a 11:46
2 Plaintiff in this litigation of a Digitek tablet 11:46
3 that was normal in size but had too much active 11:46
4 pharmaceutical ingredient; okay? 11:46

5 A. Uh-huh. Sure. 11:46

6 Q. Are you done? 11:50

7 A. Yes. Plaintiff, again, is the people 11:50
8 bringing the lawsuit? 11:50

9 Q. Yeah. 11:50

10 A. No, I don't have any reference in any 11:50
11 report. 11:50

12 Q. Okay. How often do you look at the 11:50
13 FDA's website in your work? 11:50

14 A. Daily. 11:50

15 Q. What would be a common source of 11:50
16 reference for you? 11:50

17 A. The source of references has to do with 11:50
18 recall notice, Cedar newsletter, 483 reading, that 11:50
19 kind of thing. 11:51

20 Q. So you rely on the information in the 11:51
21 FDA website for part of your day-to-day work in 11:51
22 your consulting business? 11:51

23 A. I rely on it to see what the trends are 11:51
24 with respect to compliance enforcement and to use 11:51
25 examples for my clients of what not to do. 11:51

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 91

1 Q. If a company was consistently 11:51

2 manufacturing a drug with too much active 11:51

3 pharmaceutical ingredient in it; okay? 11:51

4 A. Okay. 11:51

5 Q. Would that likely be reflected in the 11:51

6 inventory usage cards? 11:51

7 A. When you say inventory usage cards, what 11:51

8 are you calling inventory usage cards? 11:51

9 Q. Do you know what inventory usage cards 11:52

10 are? 11:52

11 A. I've never heard that term. 11:52

12 Q. In your experience do your clients and 11:52

13 did the companies for which you worked keep 11:52

14 documentation of their inventory of raw materials? 11:52

15 A. Oh, absolutely, yes. 11:52

16 Q. So they could calculate how often they 11:52

17 needed to buy new material; correct? 11:52

18 A. That's true. 11:52

19 Q. And whether their usage of those raw 11:52

20 materials was consistent with the number of 11:52

21 batches that they were producing; right? 11:52

22 A. That's correct. It's part of the 11:52

23 control of the materials. 11:52

24 Q. So if a company hypothetically was 11:52

25 consistently producing a drug with too much active 11:52

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 92

1 pharmaceutical ingredient, would it likely be 11:52
2 somehow reflected in the inventory documentation 11:52
3 for the active pharmaceutical ingredient at that 11:52
4 company? 11:52

5 A. Not necessarily. 11:52

6 Q. Why not? 11:53

7 A. If you have blend uniformity problems 11:53
8 for instance, you could be making sub-potent and 11:53
9 super-potent tablets all at the same time and that 11:53
10 would never reflect in an actual reconciliation 11:53
11 with your raw materials. There wouldn't be a 11:53
12 difference. 11:53

13 Q. Did FDA ever cite, warn, or observe that 11:53
14 Actavis was making Digitek with batches that had 11:53
15 super- and sub-potent tablets in it? 11:53

16 A. Did they ever -- say that again, please. 11:53

17 Q. Cite, warn, observe. In other words, 11:53
18 did you see a warning letter, an EIR, or a 483, 11:53
19 some statement from FDA that Digitek had batches 11:53
20 with super- and sub-potent Digitek in it? 11:53

21 A. They make reference to thick and thin 11:53
22 tablets, but I don't recall specifically if 11:53
23 they -- that's associated with super or 11:53
24 sub-potent. 11:54

25 Q. Okay. If a company was consistently 11:54

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 93

1 manufacturing tablets with too much active 11:54

2 pharmaceutical ingredients, is it likely that that 11:54

3 would be detected at the blend uniformity stage? 11:54

4 A. If you've got problems with blend 11:54

5 uniformity, it's going to be picked up on testing. 11:54

6 Q. Okay. Now -- and if a company was 11:54

7 consistently manufacturing a pharmaceutical 11:54

8 product with too much active pharmaceutical 11:54

9 ingredient, isn't it likely that that would be 11:54

10 detected on finished product testing? 11:54

11 A. Yes. 11:54

12 Q. Can you show me anything in a batch 11:54

13 record or an FDA record to indicate that there was 11:54

14 a problem with Digitek having finished product 11:54

15 testing of out of spec Digitek with too much 11:54

16 active pharmaceutical ingredient in it? 11:55

17 A. FDA or Actavis both? 11:55

18 Q. Let's start with FDA. 11:55

19 A. Okay. There's reference to difficulties 11:55

20 on content uniformity testing. 11:55

21 Q. With Digitek? 11:55

22 A. Content uniformity in general if I'm not 11:55

23 mistaken, yes. 11:55

24 Q. I want to know about Digitek. 11:55

25 A. Uh-huh. 11:55

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 94

1 Q. We're here about Digitek. These people 11:55
2 represent people who took Digitek. 11:55

3 A. Uh-huh. There are documents with 11:55
4 respect to content uniformity issues. 11:55

5 Q. Show me a document from the FDA or quite 11:55
6 frankly even from Actavis to indicate that there 11:55
7 were content uniformity problems with Digitek in 11:55
8 2005, 6, 7 or 8. 11:55

9 A. This could take a while just so you 11:56
10 know. 11:56

11 Q. Well -- 11:56

12 A. I've looked at thousands and thousands 11:56
13 of pages of information. And to answer a specific 11:56
14 question accurately and precisely, it's a 11:56
15 non-trivial thing. 11:56

16 Q. Okay. Take your time. I want to know 11:56
17 what documents you have in all this material to 11:56
18 indicate that FDA or Actavis was having an 11:56
19 out-of-specification finished product testing with 11:56
20 Digitek in 2005, 6, 7 or 8? 11:56

21 A. Content uniformity, yes, with respect to 11:56
22 blend. 11:56

23 Q. Or assay. I'm talking about finished 11:56
24 product -- 11:56

25 A. Finished product. 11:56

David Bliesner, Ph.D.

Videotaped

January 25, 2011

Page 95

1 Q. -- testing? 11:57

2 A. No. In finished product, no. I'm 11:57

3 sorry. I misunderstood you because there are 11:57

4 issues with respect to blend uniformity; okay. 11:57

5 Nobody has ever tested the tablets that were 11:57

6 in question. Nobody that I know of. 11:57

7 Q. Nobody that you know of? 11:57

8 A. Not that I know of. 11:57

9 Q. Okay. 11:57

10 A. Which is strange in itself. 11:57

11 Q. Wouldn't it be required that Actavis 11:57

12 test every batch for assay, content uniformity, 11:57

13 dissolution, and then later certain batches tested 11:57

14 on stability? 11:57

15 A. Absolutely. And they would also be 11:57

16 expected to test those tablets that were found to 11:57

17 be double. 11:57

18 Q. I'm not asking you that. 11:57

19 A. Okay. 11:57

20 Q. So let's assume there were 152 recalled 11:57

21 batches, okay, that made it to market. 11:57

22 A. Uh-huh. 11:57

23 Q. Isn't it reasonable to assume that the 11:57

24 batch records for those 152 batches have finished 11:57

25 product testing data in them? 11:57